



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Preston

for reporting year
1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Published
December 2017



Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Sections

Section	Topic	Page
1	Statutory Role	5
2	Description of Establishment 2.1 Overview 2.2 Prison Roll 2.3 Prison Facilities 2.4 Partner Agencies	6
3	Executive Summary	9

Evidence Sections

4	Safety	11
5	Equality and Fairness	12
6	Segregation/Care and Separation Unit	14
7	Accommodation (including communication)	15
8	Healthcare (including mental health and social care)	17
9	Education and Other Activities	19
10	Purposeful Activity	20
11	Resettlement Preparation	22
12	Additional Areas 12.1 Reception 12.2 Staffing	23

	12.3 Time out of cells 12.4 Chaplaincy 12.5 Family Ties 12.6 Visits	
--	--	--

	The Work of the IMB	25
	Applications to the IMB	26

Sections 1 - 3

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 DESCRIPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT

2.1 Overview

HMP Preston is a predominantly Victorian radial prison, constructed between 1840 and 1895, although the site has been occupied since 1790. During this period, it has fulfilled a variety of roles, including use for military purposes, and more recently as a Category C prison. Today it operates as a Category B male Local and Resettlement prison, servicing the Courts of Lancashire. It holds male offenders aged 18+ who have been remanded in custody, are awaiting trial, serving sentences 12 months or less, or are awaiting transfer after being allocated to another prison after sentencing. It is situated on a very confined site near to Preston City Centre, and experiences all of the difficulties typical of this style and age of establishment.

The vision of HMP Preston is to deliver a safe, progressive and healthy prison with a focus on a rehabilitative culture. It is through promoting positive change that it is intended to meet the vision, to continue to develop and deliver the business priorities, as well as bringing about a change in culture.

2.2 Prison Roll

At the time of this Report the prison roll averages around 700 with an operational capacity of 842, against a certified complement of 455.

2.3 Prison Facilities:

The prison's core residential accommodation has been organised to enable smoother operational activity. At the time of the report it consists of:

WING	DISTRIBUTION
A	Segregation Unit, Substance Misuse Assessment Centre, General Accommodation
B	Vulnerable Prisoner Unit
C	First Night Centre, General Accommodation, Resettlement Unit
D	General Accommodation Wing
F	Full Time Workers Accommodation
G	Substance Misuse Recovery Wing

In addition to the core residential accommodation, the following facilities are available to the prisoners:

- 30 bed Healthcare Centre with regional beds for Lancashire prisons
- Dental surgery conforming to current NHS guidelines
- A well-stocked and managed Library and Resettlement Area
- An Education Department which includes an IT Centre with 48 computers, a Virtual Campus, Media Training Suite, Art Suite
- Well-equipped PE facilities inconveniently on 3 sites, but well managed and delivered
- Textile workshop
- Laundry
- Multi-faith chapel
- Video Courts
- Kitchen
- Visits Centre
- Horticulture Centre

2.4 Partner Agencies

2.4.1 Drug and Alcohol Recovery Programme

The substance misuse provider at HMP Preston is Discover Drug and Alcohol Services (as part of GMW - Greater Manchester West) who work in close partnership with prison staff and other partners in delivering comprehensive clinical and psychosocial services across the establishment. Other partners include:

- The Well (Lancaster, Morecambe, Barrow) who facilitate a weekly session using ex-prisoners in long term recovery
- Acorn and Inward House Rehabs come in on a monthly basis to talk about community rehabilitation/supported housing and carry out assessments
- Other groups include a methadone reduction support group, relaxation and anxiety group, recovery gym sessions and art therapy.

From 1st April 2017 this function will be run by Spectrum Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services

2.4.2 Education and Training

The Education function is run by Novus, an element of The Manchester College, who provide a mixed and balanced curriculum focusing on enhancing the employability prospects of prisoners on release and reducing reoffending. The Training function is run by HMP Preston.

2.4.3 Healthcare

HMP Preston operates a regional hospital facility, run by the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCHT), including primary care, mental health, dental, optician and podiatry

services. It has a general medical ward with 12 beds as well as a mental health ward with 18 beds. It takes prisoners from other prisons who have serious conditions, or who are recovering from operations, and it has a palliative care role. In addition to in-patient facilities, The Integrated Mental Health Team (IMHT) offers prisoners a full Mental Health Assessment from initial reception through to discharge and also a crisis resolution service. The IMHT also attend all ACCT reviews. The team are wing-based to facilitate access by wing staff and prisoners.

From 1st April 2017, Healthcare Services will be run by Spectrum Healthcare.

2.4.4 The Library Service

This service is provided by Lancashire County Council. The Library is operating well, with very enthusiastic and committed staff and now has books in twenty-seven different languages which represent the needs of the prison population. The membership of the library has increased from 50% to 70% over the year, and book lending has increased by 40%. The library is a particularly good place for orderlies to learn new skills because of the complexity of the job and the close supervision available.

2.4.5 The Careers Service

The Skills and Funding Agency are responsible for giving the Prison Service the funding to help adults, young people, the unemployed and people with low skill levels the skills they need for employment. The primary provider is the Economic Solutions Group, who deliver The National Career Service (NCS) function throughout the North West.

2.4.6 Housing, Debt and Financial Advice

This function is now the responsibility of the Community Rehabilitation Company, Sodexo, who have sub-contracted the work to Shelter.

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the last report, HMP Preston has, yet again, undergone change, with the departure of the Governor and the appointment of a new governor

The new governor also has a policy of “Firm but Fair” towards the prisoners and it is evident to the IMB, that he backs the staff to maintain discipline and to develop a prison regime based around purposeful activity, rather than merely containment.

Yet again a major concern this year has been the struggle to maintain an effective Healthcare Service in the prison and fulfil its obligations to the Region, when the numbers of healthcare staff are less than 50% of the complement in mental health and only just over 50% in general health care. Even when recruitment to these posts has occurred, retention has been poor. Low morale has been very noticeable among staff during this period.

From 1st April 2017 Healthcare provision has been taken over by Spectrum Healthcare and, at the time of writing this Report it would appear that staff numbers are increasing and morale is improving. The Board will monitor this new provision.

The use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) has continued to be a cause for concern throughout the year, but some significant finds have been made and there has been a robust response to those caught bringing in drugs and other contraband, culminating in prison sentences for perpetrators, one of whom was a member of healthcare staff.

The number of Applications to the Board has increased substantially during the reporting period and, on too many occasions the Board has been aware that the internal prison complaints system has not been used or that staff are advising prisoners to “ask the IMB”.

3.1 Overall Judgement

Overall the prison appears to be settled following the management changes and staff have responded positively. Fast reaction to any indiscipline, some of which has been witnessed by Board Members, has helped the prison feel a safer place, with control resting firmly in the hands of the prison staff.

3.2 Previous Years Concerns

3.2.1 As previous reports by this Board and by HMIP have reiterated, the Reception area in Preston Prison remains wholly inadequate, despite efforts made by the new Governor to at least brighten the area. The limited number of holding cells means that segregation of vulnerable and non-association prisoners is extremely difficult at peak times, such as prisoners going to and from the courts. There are no private interview facilities, and prisoners residing on F wing pass through reception on their way back to their cells, creating a possible security risk (12.1). The Board is sure that financial constraints will once again be given as the reason for inaction. However, the Board will continue to press

for improvement in this area as it is unacceptable and undignified for prisoners, creates additional stress for staff and provides a potential threat to security.

3.2.2 As in previous years, yet again, the number of Applications concerning prisoners' property has increased. The two most common causes of complaint are when prisoners are transferred between prisons, and when they are removed to the Segregation Unit. The former cause is due to the contract with GeoAmey restricting the amount of property a prisoner can bring with them on the transport. Cell clearance procedures are not, on occasions, effectively carried out, meaning that prisoners' property can go missing.

3.2.3 At the time of this Report the visits hall still suffers from excessive overheating in warm weather and temporary solutions have to be used. The prison had made applications for monies for air conditioning to be installed and the Board still awaits the outcome of this application.

3.2.4 It is extremely disappointing that despite the issues of the Reception Area, Prisoners' Property and the limitations of the Visits Hall being raised in numerous reports, nothing appears to have changed.

3.3 Particular Issues for the attention of the Minister

3.3.1 The poor healthcare staffing levels and morale seen, during the reporting year, referred to in Section 8.1 have been a real cause for concern, at a time when there is a chronic nursing shortage in the country as a whole.

Although the Healthcare provision will change on the 1st April 2017, the Board remains concerned that staffing levels must increase and a boost to morale is achieved.

3.3.2 In Section 12.1, the Board draws attention to the 13604 movements through the reception area, including 2835 new prisoners and 2356 court movements, during the reporting year. The high number of prisoners passing through the Reception area is caused by the churn in this complex, busy local prison. The Independent Monitoring Board has been raising concerns about the safety, security and lack of privacy and decency engendered by the cramped and inadequate facilities in the Reception area for at least the last five years, with no real improvements being evident. Will the limitations of the Reception area be reviewed and money found to improve it in the near future?

4 SAFETY

4.1 It is regrettable that, during the period covered by this Report, there were 4 deaths in the Establishment, 3 were due to natural causes.

4.2 Each Death in Custody, whether self-inflicted or from natural causes, is investigated by the Police and Probation Ombudsman and the results are given to the Establishment with appropriate advice, if necessary. The Board is supplied with a copy of the Report which assists with our responsibility to monitor the processes in place.

4.3 The accuracy of statistical information continues to improve assisting in the early detection of any trends which may require intervention from appropriate Agencies.

4.4 Assessment, Care in Custody and Treatment (ACCT) documentation is reviewed on a regular basis by Staff. Board Members make random checks on documentation held on the Wings, Segregation Unit and Healthcare.

4.5 A total of 693 ACCT Documents were opened during this period which is an increase of 25 on the previous year with 611 being closed following assessment during the same period. Staff training in the implementation and managing of this system is an ongoing requirement to ensure that timely monitoring and recording takes place.

4.7 214 instances of self-harm were recorded with each instance being investigated and appropriate action taken, including the possibility of the person being placed on an ACCT document to facilitate closer monitoring and support to that individual. This figure is an decrease of 13 on the previous period.

4.8 Each year the Board is impressed with the support given to prisoners by the Chaplaincy Team and the prisoner Listener Team who are trained and supported by the Samaritans. These prisoners are available 24 hours a day when any of their fellow prisoners have needed a friendly ear in times of stress.

4.9 It is of concern that there were 336 instances where force was used within the Establishment. Of these instances 25 were planned, most commonly where prisoners refused to move cellular accommodation. However, 284 were spontaneous acts of violence, involving prisoners which also included 36 assaults on staff. These figures are a decrease from the previous year.

4.10 New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other drugs in the prison remain a cause for concern, although robust efforts have been made to identify those responsible for bringing drugs in and appropriate action taken.

4.11. There were a number of intelligence-led operations carried out, some with support from the North West Search Team using specialist search dogs to seize weapons, drugs, mobile phones; the contraband adversely affecting security, safety and good order.

4.12 The increased profile and approach of the Security department during the year has undoubtedly contributed to the improved levels of safety and order at the prison.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

5.1 Prisoner Consultative Committee (PCC)

5.1.1 During the reporting year, difficulties arose with the PCC, with attendance by prisoners reducing, as they were not brought over for the meeting, due to staffing issues. This was a cause for concern. The Prison Governor has now formed a new Committee at which representatives from each wing are able to give prisoners a say at the highest level of HMP Preston. The meetings are still known as the Prisoner Consultative Committee (PCC) and take place bi-monthly. The first one was held in January 2016 with good attendance.

5.1.2 Separate sub-PCC's (SPCC) are held bi-monthly mid-way between the dates for the PCC meeting: Meetings are chaired by functional heads from Residential, Reducing Re-offending and OMU, Safety and Equalities. All prisoners have the right to have wing representatives at these meetings and two representatives from each SPCC are responsible for gathering and producing an up-to-date list of actions and outcomes from the SPCC they represent and present them to the PCC. This may require liaising with the functional head for the SPCC who is responsible for facilitating this. Minutes will be kept by a nominated prisoner.

5.1.3 Prior to the PCC meeting, a Food Focus Meeting takes place addressing any catering issues that may have arisen, and also discusses incorporation of diverse menus. This meeting has been taking place now for over a year and works well with positive feedback from the representatives.

5.1.4 Minutes are placed on each wing and prisoner representatives are easily recognised and are able to be approached from meeting to meeting. An IMB member is present at each meeting.

5.2 Prisoner Equality Action Group

5.2.1 The Equality Officer updates the Senior Management Team on those protected characteristics of Equality within HMP Preston. The report updates the committee on each area, identifying concerns and appropriate action.

5.2.2 In this reporting period progress has been made to hold more prisoner forums based around the Equality strands and there is a linkup with the Prisoner Equality Reps and the Prisoner Consultative Committee representatives to work closer with peers and staff to promote effective communication throughout the prison.

5.2.3 On prisoner induction there is an Equality slot which is proving positive. The data provided is then input into the Equality Monitoring Tool which enables closer monitoring of those prisoners who fall within the equality strands. This data is analysed and discussed at each meeting and where necessary an action plan is put in place.

5.2.4 Equality Awareness training and work around new developments is ongoing in areas such as Social Care, Every Contact Matters, Deaf Awareness and Learning Disability.

5.2.5 At HMP Preston in all areas dealing with Equality and Inclusion the Management and Staff continue to make progress and are a very dedicated team of people.

5.3 Foreign Nationals

5.3.1 Due to the significant staff changes that there have been at HMP Preston, there is now no longer a Foreign Nationals Officer. However the work is successfully shared between the Equalities Officer and the Safer Custody team. Current statistics are disseminated on a regular basis and approximately 5% of the population at HMP Preston is made up of foreign national prisoners, although there is no concern over any one group dominating admissions. In total there are 17 nationalities represented, and although there are number of Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRF) being raised, there is no cause for general concern.

5.3.2 The Immigration Authority attends on a regular basis and holds one to one with prisoners if required to do so.

5.3.3 All new Foreign Nationals who are in the First Night Centre are interviewed and again when they are transferred to their wing location. They are also given the facility of a 5 minute phone call to the Country of their origin per week. This allowance is based on the price of a BT landline call. Calls to mobile numbers could result in a shorter call.

5.3.4 In accordance with Immigration Authority suggestions the prisoners are not all housed in one wing but are spread across the prison.

6 SEGREGATION, CARE & SEPARATION, CLOSE SUPERVISION

6.1 Previously the Segregation unit was seen by some prisoners as an 'easy option' and there was evidence that they were purposely getting themselves sent to the unit by refusing to move or be transferred to other facilities, and were 'hiding' within the unit. This year it has had an average occupancy of between 6 and 7. It has been known to rise to 14 on occasions, against a maximum capacity of 15.

6.2 Rule 45 review times are not as rigorously adhered to as they might be on occasions, with attendees such as Healthcare, Chaplaincy and the Duty Governor often having to be 'rounded up' to attend. This is an inconvenience for the IMB member who has often come into the Prison to specifically attend a Rule 45 review. This has resulted in some reviews not being attended by the IMB. It is not ideal that the timing of the reviews is still irregular on occasions, resulting in inconsistent attendance of the agencies who should be ideally involved, including IMB.

6.3 Once again the Board would like to record their appreciation of the staff in the unit, who deal with prisoners at their most vulnerable and disruptive at times with the utmost professionalism.

7 ACCOMODATION

7.1 The prison has a certified complement of 455, and an operational capacity of 811. This has been achieved by most cells being re-classified as double occupancy. The main accommodation is on the four wings, A, B, C and D, which radiate from the Centre in the main building. The other accommodation is in F Wing, for full time, low risk workers and the Substance Misuse Recovery Unit on G Wing.

7.2 A significant change was made in how prisoners were allocated to the wings and landings over the reporting year. For example, A2 landing has become a specialist area for assessment of those who suffer from substance misuse. B Wing has been dedicated to Vulnerable Prisoners (VP). In recent years, as the number of VPs has steadily increased, the dedicated VP landing was consistently being filled and the overflow of VPs were placed on other landings. This single location on B wing has given them all an adequate regime and has made the control of movements operationally more efficient.

7.3 C2 has been designated a Resettlement Unit, for those with less than 3 months to serve. This has been a useful change, enabling the range of individuals and bodies who support resettlement to have a focussed area to work, rather than being spread across the prison. C1 is now a first-night centre.

7.4 F wing is now a risk-assessed workers' unit, accommodating prison orderlies.

7.5 G wing is within the grounds of the prison, away from the other wings, a much better location for those trying to battle substance misuse.

7.6 There are six cells within the prison that are occupied by two Listeners that have been adapted to hold a third bed. This enables a prisoner who is finding life difficult in prison to spend the night in a cell, with the knowledge that there is always one person awake who he can talk to.

7.7 There are currently two adapted cells for mobility impaired prisoners.

7.8 Last year's Annual Report noted that the fabric of the prison is showing its age and some areas are in particularly poor condition. Most notable was the shower block in the Gym which was unhygienic and dilapidated. Despite frequent requests for improvement, there had never been money allocated to upgrade these facilities. The Board notes that this situation with regard to the Gym showers has been reversed and they are now in a fit for purpose condition.

Catering

7.9 The catering department operates and follows food hygiene rules which are set out in E.U. legislation including the requirement to have in place safety management procedures based on the HACCP principles. In June 2016 the local Environmental Health Officer again awarded a five star rating. Menus meet the nutrient national guidelines supplying three meals per day, they state all food allergens and tolerances and are pictorial making them easier to understand especially to any prisoners with literacy problems or those for whom English is not the first language. The menus are created on a four-week cycle, they try be seasonal and cover all faith related and dietary requirements. The catering department deliver a recognised level 2 in food safety to prisoners. The certificate lasts for 3 years and will provide a foundation for catering services work on their release.

7.10 Each member of kitchen staff has an allocated wing servery that they visit and check, that all hygiene practices are being adhered to. This is documented and retained for audit requirements.

7.11 The kitchen manager has introduced tin foil cartons for the transportation of hot food provisions. Curries, stews and homemade pies are placed into these tin foils to keep the food hotter once it arrives to the wing servery. This has proved a success as the food is hotter and portion controlled, which prevents prisoners not getting the required portion they are entitled to. Board Members monitor the preparation, appropriateness of the food and its transport to the Wings on an ad hoc basis.

7.12 The kitchen provides a varied menu, which takes into account of the dietary requirements of detainees. This extends to providing meals appropriate to different religions and cultural observances.

8 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

8.1 Staffing in healthcare has gone through serious fluctuations in staffing. Staff have been recruited throughout the year, but have subsequently left and there has been an inevitable reliance on bank and agency staff. Further recruitment is now taking place, and with the imminent responsibility being transferred to Spectrum Community Healthcare, in partnership with Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust the Board earnestly hopes that they will see a reversal of the low morale and staff shortages.

8.2 Despite poor staffing, the healthcare team have continued to make valiant efforts to maintain an effective healthcare service, including healthcare assessment as part of prisoner induction. Following up the issues identified at initial assessment has been complicated by the high churn rate in the prison population, referred to elsewhere.

8.3 Attendance for healthcare appointments have improved slightly during the year. Enablers have been identified to bring prisoners over to healthcare services.

8.4 Waiting times have been declining for appointments, with an average wait to see a GP declining to around 8 days. Waiting times for Optician, Podiatry and dental services are broadly comparable to the local community waiting times, unless there is staff sickness, when unavoidable increases occur.

8.6 There is a comprehensive clinical pharmacy service in place and electronic prescribing is in place which can allow greater continuity of prescribed medications when being transferred or discharged. A Pharmacist is now on site Monday to Friday.

8.7 In-patient care is available according to clinical need and is supported by the prison service where the prisoner needs a two or three-man unlock.

8.8 Prisoners requiring social care support are increasing and there is still a lack of availability of suitable social care staff and facilities on the wings. Only two cells in HMP Preston are wheelchair accessible and specialist showering facilities are restricted to the Healthcare Unit. A Social Care Register has now been created for the prison.

8.9 In-patient Mental Health Care provision is compromised by lack of available beds, both in the prison and in the long-term secure mental health facilities in the local community. On a small number of occasions prisoners with mental health problems have been located for a short time in the Segregation Unit as no other suitable provision was available for them. This puts a strain on Segregation Unit staff and is an inappropriate therapeutic environment for the prisoner.

8.10 Counselling and psychological support services are available and an advocacy service is provided by Advocacy Focus.

8.11 Complaints about healthcare are identified through formal forums, service user groups and questionnaires. Information is made available on complaints. The largest area of complaints by prisoners to the prison in previous years was waiting times for services, but this has shown a significant decrease as waiting times have improved. The

IMB received 67 applications about healthcare over the reporting year which is an increase. Physiotherapy Clinics were decommissioned by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust which resulted in a waiting list. This service is due to be reinstated by Spectrum

8.12 In respect of management of substance misuse:

The clinical team focus predominantly on the Substance Misuse Assessment Unit (A2) which provides a comprehensive range of clinical support starting with new receptions who require clinical support to detox or stabilise prior to entering the main population. The clinical team also manage those requiring longer term substitute prescribing drugs such as methadone or buprenorphine.

The psychosocial team assess all new referred prisoners for any type of substance abuse and are contracted to deliver group work interventions within the main prison, on the Recovery Wing (G wing) and organise mutual aid meetings and family based interventions.

The work of this has been one of the successes of the HMP Preston this year. They have made good progress by establishing a challenging and productive regime on G Wing.

One feature of the Discovery programme is their desire for detoxed ex-prisoners to keep in contact with G Wing, in order to show the prisoners that it is possible to continue a drug free and normal life on the outside.

The Prisoner Consultative Committee Meeting for Drugs/Health and specific service user focus groups have been utilised along with gaining the thoughts of residents from A2 and the Recovery Wing.

9 EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

9.1 On average, 90% of the population of HMP Preston are at L1 or below for English and 88% at L1 or below for Maths. This reinforces the importance of prisoners attending training in Functional Skills (FS) to address their educational needs.

9.2 To ensure that FS are delivered, attendance at classes is a conditional part of each work placement, so that maths skills are built into Horticultural placements for example, by calculating the volume of seeds needed for an area of ground.

9.3 The OLASS element of the educational provision is provided by NOVUS who deliver a wide curriculum to meet the needs of learners at Preston, focusing on enhancing the employability prospects of prisoners upon release. Learners can study courses which suit their individual needs, from Entry Level to Level 2 covering employability, literacy/numeracy and personal and social development.

9.4 HMP Preston offers every prisoner a place in work, industries or education. Specific arrangements have to be made for the Vulnerable Prisoners (VPs), and they now work in the laundry and clothing exchange, and the Textile Workshop, as well as basic packing for external companies. Generally available work includes: cleaning, laundry, waste collection, horticulture, kitchens and numerous orderly duties about the prison as well as full access to educational courses.

9.5 The average classroom efficiency in this academic year for the 2016/17 academic year is 68% which places the establishments' education, learning and skills as fourth in the North West. The target set by the North West Prison is 65% but the target set by Manchester College for funding purposes is 70%. Neither parties are complacent with the figures and weekly meetings are being held to continually improve this figure. At the time of reporting, allocation to classes run at 88% and IEPs, which are issued for non-attendance have had an effect. As a local prison, activities such as visits, legal visits and court appearances are always going to have an impact on attendance. Class cancellations are exceptionally low, at 0.01% education failures which places Preston top in the region and 0.67% prison failures which places them 3rd in the region.

Peer support is encouraged and used widely to both empower the Mentors and develop their self-esteem; and to encourage, support and motivate lower level learners and learners with specific learning needs. An accredited Peer Mentoring course is offered, which learners providing such support complete. There is a strong focus on developing and supporting these Mentors and a Mentor Support Group is run in which Mentor's can share good practice, highlight any areas of concern and develop their role.

10 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

HMP Preston is a Victorian era Cat B Local prison on a restricted inner-city site, and these factors influence the range of activities provided. The layout of the prison limits the number of workshops available for industrial work, and the “Local” classification of the prison results in a high turnover of prisoners of relatively short duration. This means that the focus of activity is mainly on the development of prisoners’ functional skills, as discussed in section 5.2., although a range of vocational activities such as sewing, catering, horticulture and painting and decorating are available.

As a Local prison, prisoners have to make appearances at court either in person or via the video link. This is facilitated by prison staff, but it is not a service which operates smoothly. Even when prisoners are brought across to the video court, delays in court availability and occasional miscommunications mean that prisoners may be kept waiting for lengthy periods in a limited space, this impacts on prisoners’ ability to take part in purposeful activity.

The Governor continues to ensure that purposeful activity is a key feature of prison life and has organised the regime to ensure maximum participation in education or work-related activities, whilst being mindful of the special needs of elderly or disabled prisoners.

The activities carried out by the prisoners include:-

10.1 Industrial Work

10.1 The 3A Workshop, the Sewing Shop carries out internal contracts for the Prison Service. The workshop has become a Vulnerable Prisoners work placement. This has considerably increased both the number of work places for the VPs and the quality of work. The staff are about to commence training for their City and Guilds Level 2 qualification, in order for them to be able to award City and Guilds L1 to the prisoners, as opposed to the current non-accredited award. This facility has a full complement of workers

10.2 The Laundry and Clothing Exchange are functioning well and are also a Vulnerable Prisoner work placement.

10.3 The Horticultural Centre that was set up has developed exceptionally well. They have made a considerable impact on the internal appearance of the prison by greening an urban Victorian site. In particular, they turned a tarmac area outside the Hospital into a garden, for which they won the “Windlesham Trophy” Fresher’s Competition for their first year’s work. Work has now commenced on creating an oriental garden.

It is also a very therapeutic environment for prisoners to work in and to relax in, from Healthcare.

Refurbishment of Poppy collection boxes has also been undertaken for the British Legion.

Overall industrial work in the Establishment achieves an 84% take up and is the 3rd highest in the North West.

10.2 Prison Duties

In common with other prisons, HMP Preston functions with the assistance of prisoners in areas such as Reception, Laundry, Kitchens, Serveries, Library. They are also employed as cleaners and painters. The Prisoner Information Desks, staffed by prisoners on the wings, which act as a reference point for the prisoners to find out about many aspects of the prison, from the general complaints procedures, to help available with agencies within the prison could be more consistent and informative.

10.3 Mentors

These prisoners are perhaps the most valuable ones in the prison, because they impact on the prisoners, on a prisoner to prisoner basis. Key figures are the Listeners, who are trained by the Samaritans and can be called upon day and night. Others includes the Health Champions, those who man the Prisoner Information Desks, and the Wing Representatives for the Prisoners Consultative Committee.

11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

11.1 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) provide input into the offender management process. The Government's aim is to transform the rehabilitation of offenders by operating an integrated process of support for offenders, starting inside prison and continuing upon release. It is hoped that this will help reduce the re-offending rates of released prisoners. The CRCs, who manage low and medium risk offenders, are private contractors who will be paid by results. The high risk offenders remain the responsibility of the National Probation Service (NPS). A strong element of this approach has been the numerous working relationship with outside charities to help prisoners upon release.

11.2 In Cumbria and Lancashire Sodexo won the contract to become the CRC. They immediately sub-contracted the elements concerning the entry and exit interviews with prisoners to Shelter. Associated with these interviews was the work to provide Accommodation, Finance and Debt advice and Employment upon release.

During the year the Board received several Applications regarding delays in completion of their Offender Assessment System Assessments (OASys) which was caused by staff shortages or temporary redeployment. It was noted that this improved as the reporting year went on.

It was pleasing to see that Shelter were able to secure over 90%, of those released, obtaining settled accommodation.

12 ADDITIONAL AREAS

12.1 Reception

HMP Preston operates as a Category B Local and has a very high through put in Reception. With an operating capacity of 811, and an adjusted operating capacity of 726, Reception dealt with 2356 court movements, received 2835 new prisoners resulting in a total of 13604 movements. The court movements were 36% down on the previous year and video link usage was down 7%.

The physical layout of the Reception area has not altered in the last 12 months, therefore the comments about its inadequacies made in previous years' reports and in HMIP Inspections remain valid. HMP Preston has tried to mitigate these inadequacies and to try to improve the experience of the first night in prison by trying to meet a target of keeping prisoners in Reception for no longer than 60 minutes. A new regime was introduced in January 2017.

A review of the procedures in Reception revealed that a major constraint on the processing of prisoners was the time taken to process their Cell Share Risk Assessment (CSRA), the main element of which is their assessment by a Nurse. The new prisoners are now transferred as soon as possible after their booking in to the First Night Centre (FNC) to have CSRA carried out there.

Until these prisoners have had their First Night Interview they are held openly on the wing. It is believed that this is a less stressful area than the holding room in Reception as they can talk to the peer mentors and the Listeners. There was initially concern by the staff that they cannot guarantee to supervise them adequately at all times, especially if they are delivered at meal times or when medication is being dispensed. A constant review of the new regimes was undertaken and to mitigate this problem the control of the movement of prisoners released was placed firmly in control of the FNC.

This new regime has had an impact upon staffing levels, as a Nurse still has to be kept in Reception to assess those returning from court and those returning from medical appointments. Initially, the nurses in the FNC preferred to work in pairs as their office was not in visual sight of the Centre's office. This increased the number of nurses employed from one to three.

12.2 Staffing

Staffing levels increased during the year which led to a re-profiling of the use of staff resources and shift patterns to match, and to changes in the way the prison has been operated. Also the establishment of a permanent night shift increases the staff available by reducing staff on recovery time. However this does not detract from the fact that the reduced number of staff has led to a reduction in searches for drugs, mobile phones and other contraband.

12.3 Time Out of Cell

12.3.1 The staffing level, combined with staff sickness, has resulted in a reduced regime on a number of weekends. On a rotational basis each wing has had a loss of one AM or PM session of association over the full weekend. These have been published so the prisoners know in advance. The arrangements form part of the Regime Management Plan which discusses reduction to the regime consequent to any reduced staffing levels. The staff have made great efforts to ensure that full time workers can benefit from the gym at weekends, so that they are not disadvantaged by working.

12.3.2 There has also continued to be a concerted effort to ensure that all prisoners take advantage of education and work placements. This has resulted in an increase in take up and created a more structured day for more prisoners, reducing the number of prisoners just being around on the wings.

12.4 Chaplaincy

12.4.1 The Chaplaincy Team perform a vital role within the Prison and provide a spiritual role to every faith. They are also a great service of comfort to prisoners and their families at times of bereavement or distress and the Board never fail to be impressed with their quiet, caring involvement.

12.4.2 The Chaplaincy also plays an important role with Health Care when prisoners come into the regional bed unit for palliative care. They contact the families and provide support by obtaining security clearance for them so they can have unrestricted access to the bedside of their relative when required. The Chaplaincy continues this support after the death of the prisoner.

12.5 Family Ties

The work of maintaining links with families is continuing. The Story Book Dad programme of letting fathers record themselves telling a bedtime story to their children is continuing. Special Family Day Visits and Family Sports Days for prisoners on the "Dads" course have continued.

12.6 Visits

12.6.1 Since last year's report waiting times to get through on the telephone booking system have improved, visitors report a high degree of satisfaction with the on-line booking system.

12.6.2 Delay in getting prisoners over to the Visiting Centre in time for morning legal visits has, on occasions, been a problem throughout the year, although complaints to the Board have reduced.

12.6.3 Family Days have been arranged throughout the year. These occasions are looked forward to by all concerned and help to maintain those essential family ties

The Visits Centre still remains unpleasantly hot and stuffy, with no efficient ventilation or air conditioning. In very hot weather the room is unbearable and a cause of complaints amongst prisoners and their families.

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

During the reporting period the Board held its 12 statutory monthly meetings. Each time either the No1 Governor or his Deputy joined us and gave a detailed report of the previous month.

Number of rota visits: 24

BOARD STATISTICS	
<i>Recommended Complement of Board Members</i>	20
<i>Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period</i>	12
<i>Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period</i>	10
<i>Number of new members joining within the reporting period</i>	1
<i>Number of members leaving within reporting period</i>	3
<i>Total number of Board meetings during reporting period</i>	12
<i>Total number of visits to the Establishment</i>	548
<i>Total number of segregation reviews attended</i>	63
<i>Date of Annual Team Performance Review</i>	Not held

**** It is our practice to ensure that a duty member is present at the weekly R45 review, which sometimes coincides with the 72 hour review. All prisoners put on Rule 45 (for their own protection or for disciplinary reasons) are visited by a member of the Board within 24 hours of being informed by the Segregation Unit.**

Applications to the IMB						
Code		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
A	Accommodation	25	21	37	26	39
B	Adjudications	8	3	7	10	2
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	4	6	5	2	5
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	19	20	21	24	23
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	56	30	59	51	61
E2	Finance and Pay	41	25	19	15	36
F	Food/kitchen related	2	2	11	0	11
G	Health related	67	48	48	45	64
H 1	Property within current establishment	59	32	48	21	19
H 2	Property (during transfer in another establishment)	37	30	42	31	35
H3	Canteen, Facilities Catalogue shopping, Argos	17	7	6	4	6
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	31	9	51	27	17
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	22	36	38	29	19

K	Transfers	41	22	47	19	15
L	Miscellaneous	66	28	50	42	56
	Total number of IMB applications	495	322	486	365	403

The number of Applications dealt with has increased significantly during this reporting period. This increase, it is believed, has been caused by prisoners not following the internal complaints procedure initially and being referred, by some Staff, to the IMB outside of due process.