



Ministry
of Justice

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Mrs Dorothy Davis
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Sudbury
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 5HW

13 November 2017

Dear Dorothy,

**HMP/YOI SUDBURY: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2017**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 May 2017. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that has been put into capturing your helpful observations, especially as the Board is so short of members.

Prison Reform remains a fundamental part of the Government agenda. A Prison Safety Programme has been established to support establishments in the delivery of safer prisons and is responsible for implementing the reforms set out in the recent White Paper with 2,500 extra prison officers and new security measures to tackle drones, phones and drugs.

We will be investing £1.3 billion in a modernisation programme to create 10,000 modern prison places starting with the proposed redevelopment of Glen Parva and Wellingborough. We will also provide greater empowerment for all Governors over their budgets, staffing, services and regimes and publish results in new performance tables to drive reform and improvements across the estate and create a new duty for the Secretary of State to intervene when prisons are failing.

We aim to deliver rigorous new standards to get prisoners off drugs and into work with offenders tested for drug use and also on English and Maths on both entry and exit from prison, so the progress they have made while in prison can be measured.

At a local level, at HMP & YOI Sudbury there are discussions about offender management in custody and the impact on the 'open' estate, with any agreed changes incorporated into the delivery model. The new performance matrix is currently being tested and will be refined in to the next financial year.

HMP & YOI Sudbury as part of the East Midlands group, will play an integral part of a prisoner's sentence journey from receipt in to a local prison through to release. Although this group approach is still relatively new, a strategy has been designed to deliver a more joined up approach in sentence delivery and progress, providing better outcomes for the men.

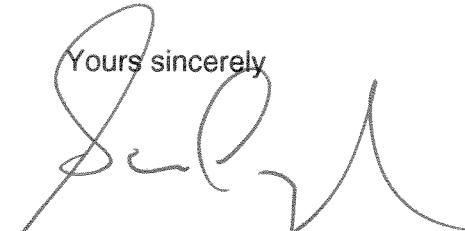
It was encouraging to receive your comments that the prison attaches great importance to treating prisoners fairly and humanely, that new arrivals are well supported with a dedicated wing for their first night and beyond and that end of life care is excellent.

I was also pleased to read the Reducing Reoffending team works enthusiastically, with integration of well-developed and supported Pathways to ensure that preparation for release is good. The provision of dedicated staff to run Family Days is also a positive step towards rebuilding family ties prior to release.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Justice Secretary and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP & YOI Sudbury.

Yours sincerely



SAM GYIMAH MP

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prison Transfers

The prison population remains high with the open estate running at over 98% capacity, therefore few spaces currently exist across the open estate and most of those are reserved for indeterminate prisoners progressing from Category C establishments. It is right that these prisoners are progressed as quickly as possible so they can work towards eventual release. In addition, as the resettlement pathway is started immediately upon arrival into a Category D prison any subsequent transfer into another Category D establishment could prolong this progress.

Transfers between open prisons do not need to rely on the national system of transfers to be achieved. Where a prisoner is accessing Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) often a transfer can be facilitated with the individual transferring themselves on ROTL without the need for the escort contractor.