



**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Independent Monitoring Board**  
at

**HMP/YOI New Hall**

for reporting Year  
**1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018**

**Published**  
**(September 2018)**



*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

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### 1 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

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

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP & YOI New Hall for the period 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018. IMB evidence comes from observations made on visits, scrutiny of records and of data, informal contact with prisoners and staff and prisoner Applications.

### **Main judgements**

#### **Are prisoners treated fairly?**

Overall prisoners receive fair treatment at New Hall although at times the insufficient level of purposeful activity means some prisoners are unoccupied or confined to their cell for longer periods than necessary.

#### **Are prisoners treated humanely?**

We are satisfied that New Hall has treated its prisoners humanely and justly during the reporting period. Generally, there is a culture of treating women with dignity.

#### **Are prisoners prepared well for their release?**

The prison and agencies that work within it have programmes in place to prepare women for their release. Often though it is difficult to assess how effective the programmes are as women are not monitored after their release. On occasions, concerns have been raised about the delay in ensuring programmes are in place prior to prisoners being released. The lack of housing accommodation available on release continues to be a concern.

### **Main Areas for Development**

#### **TO THE MINISTER**

The Minister is requested to urgently address the on-going issue of prisoners with severe mental health diagnoses transferring to a more appropriate facility rather than remaining in prison for long periods which is detrimental to their wellbeing and the wellbeing of prison officers who are required to look after them.

#### **TO THE PRISON SERVICE**

That HMPPS focusses on the urgent delivery and implementation of the Female Offender Management Strategy.

#### **TO THE GOVERNOR**

That sufficient staffing levels are maintained to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and residents alike.

## **Improvements**

The smoking ban was introduced in September 2017 and despite concerns about its introduction, the prison undertook a series of Smoking Cessation courses, which provided prisoners with strategies and support prior to the introduction of the ban on tobacco. Attendance at these courses was good and the women found them useful. Although it was anticipated that there may have been some disruption when the ban came into force, the solid preparation prior to September has meant that there have been no significant issues.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

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HMP/YOI New Hall is a closed women's prison situated between Huddersfield and Wakefield in West Yorkshire. The prison is set in rural surroundings and is one of a cluster with HMP Askham Grange. Whilst close to the M1 and M62 motorways and served by a regular bus service from either Wakefield or Huddersfield, those visiting by public transport face a walk of approximately 1 mile to the prison gates.

Residents are drawn mainly from Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, although it is an ongoing issue for the Prison Service that we receive residents from more southerly areas. Being so far away from home areas gives rise to the significant problems faced by families and friends who may be unable to visit as well as for the resettlement of residents at the end of their sentences.

HMP New Hall can accommodate up to 425 residents from the age of 18 years, including up to 40 life sentenced and IPP/ISP residents. There are four main residential units: Oak, Willow, Poplar and Larch. The majority of the accommodation is single rooms although there are still some double cells which raise issues of privacy and health and hygiene matters. Poplar 2 includes a dedicated first night centre, whilst Larch House has semi-open conditions and houses low risk mainly enhanced residents. Additionally, Maple House is a small Mother and Baby Unit which can accommodate up to nine mothers and their babies. Holly House is for those residents requiring Care and Assessment whilst Sycamore House is for residents requiring Care and Separation.

Education Supplier:	Novus
Mental Health Service provider:	Care UK
Healthcare provider:	Care UK
Drug Treatment:	Care UK
Library Services:	Novus

The Rivendell Unit is partly used for residents with Personality Disorders.

One wing is dedicated to those who have recently arrived at the prison whilst another is occupied by those serving long term/life sentences. One of the wings was constructed as temporary accommodation and was given a maximum life expectancy of 15 years, which it has surpassed by many years and the building is showing signs of considerable wear and tear.

## B Evidence sections 4 – 11

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### 4. SAFETY

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- 4:1** A survey conducted by the prison early in this reporting year indicated that, generally, the women felt reasonably safe within the prison, although responses highlighted some areas where they felt less safe. These areas are the exercise yard, the Health Care Centre and the medicines queue. Until its recent refurbishment, the HCC waiting room was small, cramped and often unsupervised.
- 4:2** Prisoners arriving at HMP/YOI New Hall have sometimes undertaken unnecessarily long journeys from court due to the practice of dropping off male prisoners first, and it is a regular occurrence that reception staff stay after their shifts have officially ended. The women are tired and hungry and may require medical treatment. The Board is concerned that this practice continues despite it being highlighted by this and other female establishments in the past.
- 4:3** Whatever their arrival time, all women are treated appropriately on arrival. Those who arrive too late for the evening meal will be offered hot food and a drink. All women are assessed by a nurse in Reception prior to going to the First Night wing, although this has changed since the end of the reporting period and women are now seen by a nurse once they are on the First Night wing.
- 4:4** For those women who are on an ACCT, checks are generally made and recorded in a timely manner, although it is noted that recordings are occasionally late in being entered into the ACCT document (in one instance a document was checked by an IMB Member and found to have had no entries made for over 2 hours although assurances were given that observations had been made). Case reviews are held regularly and SIM meetings take place twice weekly.
- 4:5** The number of recorded self-harm incidents varies from month to month (for example, there were 16 recorded self-harm incidents in June 2017 compared with 82 in August). A significant amount of work is being undertaken to look at days and times when the incidence of self-harm may be more prevalent and early data indicates that the days just before and after canteen day (Friday); when the prison is in patrol state; and those already on ACCT's are significant factors. 'Cutting' is the preferred method of self-harm and razors were subsequently taken off the canteen list (they are now handed out on a one for one exchange). There may also be a link between regime restrictions and self-harm incidents as women are locked in their cells and have little to occupy themselves with.
- 4:6** Both the Samaritan and Listener schemes have suffered from a shortage of trained women over the reporting year. The Listeners have been called out 112 times in the months April 2017 – February 2018 although the number of calls out per month varies considerably. All Listeners undertake training and operate a rota

system for calls out. There is a concern that access to Listeners at night is not always easy to get.

- 4:7** In terms of violence by prisoners, the reporting year has seen a distinct change in the behaviour of female prisoners. In common with other establishments, assaults are becoming more frequent (especially in the days immediately before and after canteen day; during association and wing-based activities). There is a high number of these incidents on Holly, where the women have complex and severe mental health problems. The incidence of violence against staff has increased over the reporting year.
- 4:8** Drugs and substance misuse continue to be a matter of concern for the prison, the use of PS (Spice) included. It is known that the drugs are brought into the prison by various means (for example: on children's drawings, in letters, on clothing, packed into body cavities by women returning to prison). Whilst measures are taken to keep one step ahead of the problem, the reality is that drugs still get into the establishment. To date, HMP/YOI New Hall has not had a problem with drones, probably due to the secluded situation of the prison.
- 4:9** There was one death in custody in the reporting year. The resident had been at the prison for a very short time and was not on an ACCT. Staff and residents were informed and offered support as required. The deceased's family were informed and offered support.
- 4:10** There have been three inquests concluded in the reporting year, but the IMB have not had sight of the reports. One Coroner's Report (dated 02.03.2018) made a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, stating that, in this particular case, prison was not an appropriate environment and that the young woman would have been better served by having treatment in a secure environment. The Coroner stated that he had made the same recommendation 10 years earlier in another case, but that nothing appeared to have changed.

## 5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

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- 5:1** Throughout the reporting period, the prison continued to provide a positive approach to equality and fairness. At any given time, there is a mix of backgrounds and all are treated fairly and with dignity. When gathering information for the report, of the 374 prisoners residing at New Hall, 43 were under 25 years of age, 44 were over 50, 10 over 60 and 3 over 70. 47 declared they were LGTB (with 4 undergoing gender assignment), 24 were foreign nationals, 116 declared disabilities including 63 with a diagnosed mental illness, 37 with learning disabilities, 2 visually impaired and 19 with reduced mobility. It should be noted that whilst these figures may change, they accurately reflect the diversity of the residents residing in New Hall. The prison also has a mother and baby unit which can house up to 9 residents.
- 5:2** The prison provides and meets the following:
- PEEP's – Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans for residents.
- Dietary requirements – Food options are available to suit religious and dietary needs. Salads are always available, and the menu is provided in simple English with pictorial representations (some background colours however do render dyslexic overlays useless).
- Chaplaincy – Regular services and festivals are held for Christian, Sikh, Muslim and Pagan believers.
- 5:3** Education - There is a good range of English fiction but limited foreign language options. The library which was re-opened as the Hive during the reporting period also operates as a coffee shop to encourage residents to linger and take part in literacy and book club classes. 1-1 support is provided in ESOL (4% to 9% of the residents have a declared limited or no understanding of reading or writing English).
- 5:4** The gym provides programmes for GP referrals, cardiac rehabilitation, injury, weight problems, pre and postnatal 1-1 sessions and support and healthy living. Courses are held in conjunction with substance misuse and a female instructor is provided for cultural reasons and for those with past experiences whereby making relationships with males is difficult.
- 5:5** Equality and Diversity meetings, chaired by the Governor, were held quarterly. Diversity staff and key workers from every Wing attended. The prisoners welcome direct contact with the Governor as their ideas are genuinely listened to and respected. The minutes of the meeting are posted in the library.
- 5:6** Due to the secondment of the Equality and Diversity Officer, a new officer was appointed but not until November causing inevitable disruption in the system and a backlog of DIRFs. A new annual timetable of meetings has been published detailing not only the Equality and Diversity meetings but separate meetings for

ethnic minorities, travellers/gypsy/Roma, LGBT, over 50s, foreign nationals, disabilities and BME. All are chaired by the Equality Officer and the Governor is invited. The effectiveness of these meetings will be monitored.

- 5:7** The Equality and Diversity Officer is dedicated to the work, but on occasions staff shortages mean her frequent deployment to other duties. Complaint forms/boxes are on every wing and printed in several languages. 'Big Word' is also used by officers. However, there is still too much reliance on fellow prisoners who speak minority languages to assist.
- 5:8** Partnerships continue with the Alzheimer's Society and the Wakefield Dementia Group. Some older fixtures and fittings require refurbishment and a programme of refurbishment is underway as the showers on several wings are not DDA compliant and are unreliable.
- 5:9** Pay for retired, the sick and new mums is £3.25 per week whereas the basic pay is £4.00 per week with an opportunity to win a £5.00 monthly prize in some workshops. This puts pressure on people without personal cash to work to maintain their standards and dignity.
- 5:10** Residents tell us that they are treated fairly, with one or two exceptions, and that they feel safe. The Governor and staff are fully committed to equality and fairness and strive constantly to achieve it.

## **6. SEGREGATION / CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT**

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- 6:1** The Segregation Unit at New Hall holds up to 12 women at any one time and is staffed by officers who apply to work in the unit. The unit is used to house those segregated following adjudications, although some are placed there for their own protection and some for the protection of others. Known drugs dealers coming into the prison and who, intelligence suggests, may have drugs secreted about their person, are brought into the unit until it is deemed safe for them to go on to normal location.
- 6:2** Conditions for the women are reasonable. There is one shower and all cells have a WC and a sink. The women are responsible for keeping their cells clean and tidy, although not all do. Dirty protests are not uncommon, and staff go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the unit remains a safe place to be. There is an exercise yard where individual residents may get fresh air and some exercise. Meals are sent from the kitchens already served in polystyrene trays in a heated container, as the kitchen facility in the Segregation Unit has long been out of action.
- 6:3** IMB members are notified promptly of new arrivals on the unit and Review Boards are (in the main) held on a Wednesday afternoon, which the duty IMB member always attends. Reviews held at times other than this may not be attended by the duty IMB member if they are not in the prison. Prisoners are always invited to participate in the reviews and most do. Reviews are conducted by the duty Governor and will usually be attended by a member of the Mental Health Team and the duty IMB member as well as staff from the unit. Whilst the focus is always on returning the prisoner to the wing, the past year has seen a small number of women staying in the unit for very considerable lengths of time. Permission to keep these women segregated has been sought and obtained from the DDC in these cases. There have been no occasions where the IMB has disagreed with the decision of the Review Board or believed the process to be incorrect.
- 6:4** Board members visit the Segregation Unit at least once per week and speak with all the women. Although the Board member is accompanied by an officer (we do not have cell keys) we are able to speak with each woman freely.
- 6:5** Daily logs are completed by everyone visiting the prisoners on the unit and the IMB check initial paperwork as soon as possible after the women are placed in segregation. All documentation is kept up to date and is done in a timely manner.

## **7. ACCOMMODATION (including communication)**

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- 7:1** Accommodation within the prison is generally satisfactory, with most women being housed in single occupancy cells. All cells have a toilet and a washbasin and there is a 'modesty curtain' to maintain a level of dignity when using the toilet. The IMB has noted previously that these are not always of a suitable length to preserve modesty, although this has now been rectified with new curtains being ordered and installed. Those who share a cell have reported the indignity of having to use the toilet with someone else in the room and sometimes having to sit on the toilet to eat meals. This is unhygienic and degrading in the view of the IMB. Shower areas are to be refurbished in a rolling programme of improvement. Overall, the standard of cleanliness of the wings and other areas of the prison is good. Externally, the prison environs are pleasant and attractive thanks to the work done by those employed with the gardens unit.
- 7:2** Menus are distributed to all residents on a 4-week cycle and they can make their meal choices in advance. The Catering Manager and his staff offer a range of cooked meals daily and the food is inevitably hot and tasty. All dietary requirements are catered for appropriately and special arrangements are made for those observing Ramadan to ensure that they get a hot meal at the end of the day. One issue in the kitchens is the insufficient provision of toilet facilities for the women working in there (there is one toilet but should be two). Costings for the additional facility have been done and a bid for funding made.
- 7:3** Female prisoners wear their own clothing and there is a small shop which sells clothing provided by a local charity where they can purchase additional items. The shop has been a great success, benefitting both the residents and the charity. Previous problems with women's property being lost in transit from other prisons appears to have abated in the last 12 months based on the number of Applications received during the reporting period'
- 7:4** The prison regime has been significantly reduced on a number of occasions in the reporting period due to staff shortages (detached duties; bed watches; staff sickness) and the impact on the women is significant. Out of cell time is often curtailed, although this is managed by a rota system, ensuring that all residents have some periods of time on association. As indicated earlier in this report (para 4:5) there is a possible link between regime restrictions and incidents of self-harm.
- 7:5** Overall, the relationship between staff and residents is good. Following any serious incident, residents are informed and offered support if required, as are staff.

## **8. HEALTHCARE (including Mental Health and Social Care)**

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- 8:1** The IMB monitors all areas of health care within the establishment. Many of the residents have complex needs, including mental health issues. The service providers are CARE UK and throughout the reporting period there has been increased dialogue between the Board and CARE UK management.
- 8:2** One of the reasons for more regular dialogue is the number of healthcare issues raised by residents with IMB Members when undertaking rota duties, either directly or via the complaints procedure. Over 25% of the applications received during the reporting period were in relation to healthcare matters.
- 8:3** CARE UK has its own complaints procedure of which the residents are aware. However, there is a concern that delays in responding to complaints leads to frustration and a request by the residents to the IMB to investigate the matter on their behalf.
- 8:4** All residents have access to a range of health services within the prison and more specialist care is provided at local hospitals. The main issues raised by residents are the delays in obtaining appointments, appointment cancellations due to insufficient escorts and being unable to obtain prescribed medication on time. A significant number of the residents have problems relating to drug dependency.
- 8:5** During the reporting period there has been a large turnover of CARE UK staff which has not helped the situation. Delays in obtaining replacement nursing staff and other suitable professional and medical practitioners has added to the problems. On occasions, the delay in obtaining security clearance (DBS etc) has led to staff who had been recruited deciding to take up employment elsewhere.
- 8:6** Other issues raised by the IMB during the reporting period include healthcare complaints boxes not being emptied in a timely fashion. Action has subsequently been taken to ensure the boxes are emptied on a regular basis.
- 8:7** Another issue of concern is healthcare complaints not being logged or answered in a timely fashion. Again, a new process is now in place and should be more effective than previously. Complaint forms have not always been readily available on the wings and the attitude of some staff is seen to be dismissive and uncaring on occasions. Residents feel they are not properly listened to. This information has been gathered by the IMB when carrying out their monitoring duties when discussing healthcare issues with residents.
- 8:8** Residents with particularly complex mental health issues are located on Holly Wing. The officers who work on the unit have had to deal with some challenging situations over the last twelve months on a regular basis. The dedication shown by the officers throughout this period is to be commended.
- 8:9** It should be added however that Board members often witness healthcare staff doing an excellent job when responding to emergencies. They are caring, compassionate and thoroughly professional.

**8:10** Overall, the IMB is concerned that for several reasons, including those outlined above, the level of healthcare provision within New Hall continues to be an issue and will be monitored closely.

## **9. EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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- 9:1** HMP New Hall is a working prison and all residents are expected to be in employment or education. Residents are given the opportunity to explore a pathway when they attend the introduction to training and employment as set out in their action plan.
- 9:2** NOVUS are the education providers and engage with residents on a regular basis through Student Council meetings, surveys and curriculum reviews. The establishment has approximately £1.2m to spend on training, qualifications and other educational support provision.
- 9:3** NOVUS deliver both academic and occupational skills and are entered into a partnership with the Max Spielman Academy to provide real world skills with the promise of a placement in the community. In addition, a range of enterprise workshops deliver training and qualifications in a range of areas, land-based activities provide work experience in horticulture and grounds maintenance, and ROTL placements in retail and other working environments and the Catering Department provide NVQ accredited training.
- 9:4** NOVUS also provide an employment advisor offering support and practical help for those seeking employment. St Giles Trust also work closely with NOVUS, looking at qualifications to try and improve employment opportunities when residents are released and encourage volunteering opportunities in the community.
- 9:5** The gymnasium staff deliver an industry recognised qualification and other courses to help employability.
- 9:6** The Hive and Coffee Shop has proved particularly popular with residents and plays host to various activities throughout the day and evenings, including recognition and awards ceremonies.
- 9:7** Examples of education success rates during the reporting period include 91% completion rate in relation to English classes which is above the community average of 68%, and 91% completion rates in relation to maths courses which is above the community average of 71%. Only 124 residents did not complete their courses out of a total number of 1246 courses. This was mainly due to residents being released before they completed the course. In addition, success rates are also monitored by disability, ethnicity and learning difficulties.
- 9:8** Overall, the IMB is satisfied that the service is managed effectively and provides education, learning and support for residents wishing to progress. Regular dialogue is maintained with NOVUS throughout the year.

## **10. WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT**

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- 10:1** Discussions with the Head of Learning and Skills elicited the information that work has been done to review and diversify activities and industries in the prison and this is on-going. The vision is to enable prisoners to develop skills and self-reliance by having a vocational hands on experience in the classroom. There is a plan to open a multi-skills DIY workshop and link it in to local employers, e.g. B&Q Homebase Academy. A contract with a call centre company terminated in February this year but excellent work continues with Max Spielman. The latter provide ROTL employment opportunities for prisoners in the Wakefield shop and a 16 week trial work contract upon release for suitable candidates who have been fully trained in all aspects of the work. The workshop took part in a documentary film being made earlier this year. Prisoners also work outside the prison in local charity shops. Barista training takes place in the Hive (library and coffee shop) and leads to a City & Guilds Level 2 qualification. Prisoners who have completed this training speak of increased self-confidence and of having a better possibility of employment upon release.
- 10:2** There is a regular supply of work in the workshops and attendance is generally good. There is sometimes a problem with lateness due to the delay in prisoners obtaining their morning medication. Prisoners with complex needs can attend two sets of classes as part of the engagement strategy. These classes provide opportunities to create stunning art work and learn new handicraft skills. The skills acquired enable the prisoners to build their self-confidence and self-esteem while at the same time allowing them to give something back to society, e.g. knitting hats for the homeless and items for premature babies, making cards for local charities to sell. The prisoners were fulsome in their praise for the time spent in these classes, for the staff and for the prisoners who acted as mentors within the group.
- 10:3** The Education, Learning and Skills Departments have a project called “Across the Gate” where they aspire to identify employment opportunities post release. Part of this is a new course called Release Ready which incorporates sessions on healthy eating, personal care, building confidence by having hair and makeup done in a way which is suitable for a job interview. The prisoners also learn how to write CVs and job interview application forms. The feedback from staff and prisoners has been excellent. This is evidenced by thank you cards from women who have been released and obtained work especially in the field of hairdressing. The staff have a positive and enthusiastic approach which enables the prisoners to acquire skills and self-confidence. This positive approach is mirrored by the approach of the management in this sector which is characterised by a strong belief in future innovation, the capacity of people to achieve and develop despite previous setbacks, lack of encouragement and opportunity.

## **11. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION**

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- 11:1** Programmes are an integral part of a prisoner’s sentence plan, providing an effective component towards reducing re-offending. They provide help and support and enable prisoners to try to put acquired skills into practice both pre and post release. A concern is that the work done pre-release can count for very little if it is not linked to continuing provision post-release in the community. This lack of continuity can only add to the prisoners’ pre-conceived negative beliefs of not obtaining the help they need. The importance of programmes was evidenced in discussions with a prisoner who had completed the anger management course and who gave excellent feedback. She found the staff supportive and learnt new techniques to avoid confrontation in both group and 1:1 sessions. She nominated the staff for a prison “appreciation award”.
- 11:2** The IMB are aware of a new system to book visits via a national call centre which does not always work. The visits room in the prison is not always clean (IMB can verify that), the vending machines are not re-stocked, e.g. for Sunday visits after Saturday they are often half empty. There is poor provision for diabetic visitors.
- 11:3** There were 7 family days and 2 lifer days in the reporting period. In the visits room, the vending machines are not always re-stocked but the Visitor Centre outside the gate offers food and drink which is cheaper but means less interaction between prisoners and family. 80 people had come to the family day – gym activities were provided and then a hot lunch. Childcare staff can observe the bonds developing between mothers and children as they play together/share activities in the play centre. Mothers can be in there alone with their children but only two prisoners at a time – this use is maximised at New Hall. These slots are timed in conjunction with uniformed staff and depend on the number of visitors wanting this service on the day.
- 11:4** The prison family support worker organises a free family photo on the day via Max Spielman to give to each resident. No photos can be taken out of the prison. This provides residents with a lovely memento of the day.
- 11:5** The OMU confirm that the progression for deportees is very poor at best. There is a distinct lack of support from the immigration team, possibly because their staff turnover is high. Moreover, their staff do not appear to be well trained. Their representative comes into the prison when he can but has a massive workload covering Yorkshire and North Humberside. Once a deportee has been allocated a place to move to, the removal and transfer goes well with good communication.
- 11:6** Prisoners have a bank account upon release only if they come into prison with one or they have asked for one to be set up. Not all prisoners have a residence to go upon release. Accommodation provision is extremely limited and prisoners are often only signposted to agencies outside for help. Some are given passwords to go straight to the local housing office in their area so that they can bid for a property. This situation is totally unsatisfactory and in no way assists with reducing offending and successful completion of licence periods.

- 11:7** Offender management is felt to be of good quality. Statutory requirements are adhered to in terms of sentence planning and OASYS documents are countersigned and regularly quality checked, leaving an audit trail. Contributions are always made to MAPPA either by the completion of the prison contribution form or by attendance at meetings usually by telephone link or by both. Advice to prisoners prior to release varies. It is good to report that the local hostel for women visits the prison and so prisoners can see what is on offer and can allay their fears or preconceptions. Other accommodation issues are not so easily resolved, and it seems there is often little that can be done prior to release to secure an address. That having been said, the latest arrangements for Home Detention Curfew (which appears to be more a right than a privilege) do seem to provide a service through the Stonham Bail Accommodation and Support Service (BASS). They can provide an address, if not in the exact release destination, in nearby towns. Good use is made of Release on Temporary Licence with some excellent local placements. However, it is felt by OMU staff that more could be done to approach local businesses to provide regular employment opportunities.
- 11:8** Communication via email with CRCs is described as very good by staff working with those prisoners serving less than 12 months. However, short prison sentences for the sizeable number of “revolving door” prisoners serving short sentences for acquisitive crime to fund addictions are problematic. No OASYS is completed but a basic custody screening. Staff were pleased that, due to demand, more programmes dealing with reducing re-offending have been provided even for this group, e.g. anger management and thinking skills which can now include perpetrators of acquisitive crime. However, all work done prior to release needs to be matched by support post release and a willingness on behalf of the prisoner that it is now time to change.

## C Section – Work of Board

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It is pleasing to note that the number of applications received by the IMB during the reporting period has decreased again. As reported previously, the amount of applications received by the IMB can prove time-consuming and restricts the amount of time available to monitor effectively. Dealing with applications does however provide the Board with the opportunity to investigate matters and often learn more about prison rules, regulations and procedure in the process. The IMB endeavours to resolve them as quickly as possible.

Details of the number of complaints, and the subject matter to which they refer, received by Corporate Services are presented to the Board monthly. These are discussed in depth and allows us to focus on current matters when carrying out our monitoring role.

The Board complement is 11 members although there have been several resignations throughout the reporting period. There are currently 5 active members and 2 recently appointed members at the beginning of their probationary year. The Board meets monthly and a matrix rota system is in operation to ensure all areas of the prison are monitored.

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board	11
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting year	7
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting year	6
Total number of visits to the Establishment	304
Total number of Segregation reviews attended	52

## D Section – Applications

<b>Code</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>A</b>	Accommodation	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>B</b>	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>C</b>	Equality	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>D</b>	Purposeful Activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>E1</b>	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>E2</b>	Finance and pay, private monies, spends	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>F</b>	Food/kitchen related	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>G</b>	Health, physical, mental, social care	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>H1</b>	Property within current establishment	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>H2</b>	Property during transfer in or another establishment	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>H3</b>	Canteen facilities list, catalogue	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>I</b>	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates etc	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>J</b>	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>K</b>	Transfers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>L</b>	Miscellaneous	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Total Number of IMB Applications</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>230</b>