



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

**HMP Preston**

for reporting Year  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**Published**  
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*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 Preston for the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018. IMB evidence comes from observations made on visits, scrutiny of records and of data, informal contact with prisoners and staff, surveys and prisoner applications.

Overall, the Board finds Preston to be a well-run prison, with generally good relations between officers and prisoners.

### **Main judgements**

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

Overall the prisoners receive fair treatment in this establishment as shown by the low number of complaints concerning discrimination (section 5.1).

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

The introduction to the prison through the Reception area cannot be thought of as humane due to its very restricted nature (section 4), and the Victorian accommodation overall is in need of work (section 7) to meet modern standards for e.g. space and toilet decency. Once prisoners are within the establishment they are treated humanely as evidenced by the core day (section 7) and the high proportion engaged in education and employment. (sections 9 and 10).

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

As HMP Preston is a local prison with a strong resettlement function, the preparation of prisoners for release is an established function which is carried out well. (section 11)

### **Main Areas for Development**

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#### **TO THE MINISTER**

Will the Minister ensure additional resources are provided to ensure the living conditions of prisoners are improved with respect to the findings paper by HM Inspectorate of Prisons, “Life in prison: Living conditions”, with particular regard to the showers and privacy whilst using the toilet (section 7)?

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

Funding which is understood to be allocated to improve ventilation in the prison’s visits area should be used to action improvements now to avoid further detriment to prisoners and their families (section 5).

The reception facilities in HMP Preston have long been inadequate and unsatisfactory. The Board is aware of proposals for their modernisation and replacement to current standards and strongly support anything which will resolve this long-standing issue (section 4).

Drug Itemiser Machines should be provided for use in all prisons to screen incoming mail for psychoactive substances and prevent their entry through this route (section 4).

Showers and sanitary facilities across the prison are another long-standing area of concern where improvement is urgently needed (sections 6 and 7).

## **TO THE GOVERNOR**

How can the control of prisoners' property be improved when prisoners are moved to the Segregation Unit under restraint (section 7)?

## **TO THE PROVIDER (of Maintenance etc)**

This year has been notable for the frequency with which delays to building maintenance and repairs, or uncertainty about the timescale within which they will be dealt with, have been identified as an issue in rota reports and in other monitoring around the prison. What can be done to accelerate repairs and maintenance and to communicate the progress of reported problems more effectively? (mainly section 7, but also see section 8 re Healthcare accommodation).

## **Improvements**

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Healthcare provision, which was identified as a particular source of concern at the time of our previous report, has significantly improved since the current provider assumed responsibility in April 2017. The Board welcome the improvements noted in section 8 below, however, section 8 also notes a 23% increase in applications to the board about healthcare, which raises some concerns.

There have been a number of improvements to accommodation, as noted in section 7 below, Reception has improved privacy with the introduction of curtains in the shower area. It is also continuing to work with Healthcare to reduce the time prisoners spend in Reception (section 4). (Whilst these are welcome improvements which reflect the will of the prison and the Governor to make improvements where they can, it must be noted that they are within the context of a greater need reflected in the recommendations above.)

## **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

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### **3.1 Overview**

HMP Preston is a predominantly Victorian radial prison, constructed between 1840 and 1895. It operates as a Category B male local and resettlement prison, servicing courts across North-West (NW) England. It holds male offenders aged 18+ who have been remanded in custody, are awaiting trial, serving sentences of 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.

### **3.2 Prison Roll**

At the time of this Report the prison roll averages around 700 with an operational capacity of 811, against a certified complement of 433.

### **3.3 Prison Facilities:**

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

- 30 bed Healthcare Centre with regional beds for NW 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
- Horticulture Centre

### **3.4 Partner Agencies**

#### **3.4.1 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.

#### **3.4.2 Healthcare and Drug & Alcohol recovery**

HMP Preston operates a regional hospital facility which includes 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.

Since 1 April 2017, these services, along with those in other North-West prisons and elsewhere, are run by Spectrum Community Health CIC. Spectrum provides primary care services, including integrated substance misuse services, pharmacy services and GP sessions. Spectrum is also responsible for the provision of the following services:

- Mental health services (with their partners TEWV (Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust))
- Non-clinical substance misuse services
- Optical services
- Dental services
- A range of therapies (including physiotherapy and podiatry).

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.

### **3.4.3 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 library is a particularly good place for orderlies to learn new skills because of the complexity of the job and the close supervision available.

### **3.4.4 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.

## B Evidence sections 4 – 11

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### 4 SAFETY

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HMP Preston operates as a local prison taking remand and convicted prisoners from both Magistrate and Crown Courts in the North West of England. On occasions it has taken prisoners from other courts, including Durham 110 miles away, due to lock outs at other prisons. The last prisoner usually arrives by 7pm, but in exceptional circumstances it has been later. It is a credit to all the staff on Reception and the First Night wings that the processing is done as efficiently as possible in such circumstances.

In total 3366 new prisoners have entered Preston, with a total of 13200 movements through reception, which include court visits, police interviews and hospital visits, etc..

Throughout the year, there has been continuous monitoring of, and adjustments to, the screening procedures in Reception in order to reduce the time prisoners spend there. This has involved working with the new Healthcare provider, Spectrum, and providing safe and secure consulting rooms on the First Night Wings. This was not a simple process within the limitations of the facilities in an old Victorian prison. There are two First Night Wings, one for prisoners who use addictive substances, and one for those who do not. On both there are Listeners and good access to Samaritans phone services. All prisoners in a shared cell are observed four times a night, and those in a single cell every hour.

The physical layout of Reception is unaltered, so our concerns about its suitability (as clearly identified in previous annual reports) remain. We note that HMIP have also identified similar concerns. This year curtain screens have been provided in the search and showers areas to provide more privacy, but the current provision remains unacceptable and undignified for prisoners.

As in all prisons drugs, in particular the Psychoactive Substances (PS), and mobile phones are a continual problem. For PS one source is the paper used for prisoners' mail. This is soaked in PS and then dried before being used. In January 2018 the prisoners were notified that to reduce the supply of PS, all mail would be photocopied, with the originals being held in their private property. The Board's analysis has clearly identified the effectiveness of this precaution in a directly correlated reduction in reported incidents of use of PS. It is not thought that this is going to lead to the eradication of PS, as prisoners are ever resourceful, but it has demonstrably reduced the availability of PS within the prison, albeit at significant administrative cost. Since the photocopying was introduced there have been no ambulances called to take a prisoner to hospital under the influence, resulting in savings to the NHS and improvements to prisoner welfare. This provides compelling evidence that wider use of Drug Itemiser Machines to efficiently scan incoming mail at HMP Preston and more generally in all prisons would be more efficient and more cost-effective than labour intensive alternatives (as currently employed) for the longer term.

Use of Force (UoF) took place 342 times during the reporting period. Only two of these were planned. Although the unplanned UoF was around the average for comparator establishments, the incidents of planned UoF was the lowest. This indicates a low level of underlying tension within the prison, which accords with observations. The major reasons for UoF were threats to staff and non-compliance.

Preston was chosen to be one of four prisons to trial the use of PAVA Spray, commonly known as "pepper spray". It was trialed as an additional source of protection for officers. Whilst having a temporary debilitating effect on a prisoner subjected to it, it has no long-term effects, and so may be preferable to the use of, for example, a baton. The trial is half way through at the end of this reporting period so no final conclusions can be drawn on its use at this stage.



This year saw an increase in the numbers of Assessment, Care in Custody and Treatment (ACCT) documents open, 761, from the previous year, 564. One reason for this was that, following concerns expressed by the Ombudsman, more ACCTs were opened on prisoners returning from court with a Suicide and Self Harming notice. Monitoring of the ACCT protocols show that care and monitoring plans are being followed.

There have been no deaths in custody in this reporting period.

## **5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS**

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### **5.1 Disadvantage / Discrimination**

Neither our monitoring nor applications received have indicated concern in relation to any aspect of equality during the year. The prison's own discrimination incident reporting process is widely publicised on wings and forms for prisoners to highlight concerns are readily available, but few are submitted. During 2017, a total of 29 reports were submitted and dealt with, but these did not indicate any wider concerns in need of more general action.

Approximately 5% of the population at HMP Preston at any one time 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. 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 short phone call to the country of their origin per week. In accordance with Home Office suggestions the prisoners are not all housed in one wing but are spread across the prison. The staff of the Prison Operations and Removal section of the Immigration Enforcement department of the Home Office, attend the prison weekly and hold one to one sessions with prisoners if required to do so.

### **5.2 Faith and religious activity**

The Chaplaincy is well regarded by the IMB. It caters for all faiths and observes all religious festivals of the religions recognised by the Prison Service of the prisoners in residence. In its pastoral duties it is readily accessible to both prisoners and staff, and averages 2,000 contacts per month. They are also a great service of comfort to prisoners and their families at times of bereavement or distress.

The prison has a regional Healthcare Unit, and the Chaplaincy arranges the visiting protocol for families of prisoners residing there, especially those on palliative care, by arranging 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.

### **5.3 Prisoner rights and consultation**

Prisoner consultation is well organised through a system of Prisoner Consultative Committees, including an overview committee chaired by the prison Governor to which a number of focussed sub-committees for specific aspects of prison life report. Each of these meets monthly and each is chaired by the relevant functional head from Residential, Reducing Re-offending and OMU, Safety and Equalities, and Healthcare. Prisoner representatives from each wing are invited to each of these meetings, and are responsible for consulting other inmates and communicating back outcomes. These arrangements give prisoner representatives opportunity to raise relevant issues directly and have them resolved in a timely manner, and also give them direct access to the Governor if necessary.

There is a well-established complaints process within the prison, although prisoners are encouraged to speak to wing staff to resolve complaints informally before resorting to the formal process. The process is monitored by the Board and appears to function well. There is a separate complaints process in place for healthcare complaints to the provider, Spectrum CIC. All forms relating to these processes, along with information about the Ombudsman and

IMB, are available on each wing from a prisoner information (“PID”) desk. A prisoner on each wing has the function to ensure that this information is fully up-to-date and available. This does vary from wing to wing – for example on some wings, information and standard forms are freely available, on others they are only available on request. Prisoners would benefit from improved quality control and overview to ensure a good standard of provision across the prison.

#### **5.4 Family relationships**

The prison takes its responsibility to maintain family ties seriously and carries out its requirements to hold six family days per year. These days all have different themes aimed at strengthening family relationships. The prison is helped by volunteers from Crossgate church, staff from Prison Fellowship and the Prisoners Advice and Care Trust (PACT). Unfortunately, attendance at these days is not always as high as it could be. Prisoners having domestic violence alerts, no child contact alerts and general restriction orders reduce attendance. In addition, being a remand prison means the population is not static due to transfers after sentencing.

The prison also runs programmes, run by partners such as PACT and Probation, to help prisoners with anger management and rebuilding family relationships.

The Visits Hall still suffers from lack of ventilation, and in the summer period it is extremely hot and stuffy. Money has been allocated to have air conditioning installed following previous recommendations, but this has yet to result in improvements. This year the fixtures in the children’s play area were removed for safety reasons. In March 2018, Partners of Prisoners commenced their partnership with the prison. It is hoped that their access to resources will eventually enhance the visits experience for families with young children. Crossgate church in partnership with the prison plan to open a visitor’s cafe/centre located across the road from the Visits Hall, for a trial run in July 2018.

#### **5.5 Board composition**

The Board successfully recruited four new members during the year but also lost three members. A further round of recruitment is considered likely in the coming year. As previously, effort will be made to ensure that the opportunity to volunteer is publicised as widely as possible and to as diverse a range of the public as possible.

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

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The Care and Separation Unit (“CSU”) at Preston has 16 cells. The unit has established staff who are professional and patient with what can be the most taxing of prisoners, showing sympathy and common sense, despite the violence and abuse they sometimes have to face. The board member on rota is contacted promptly for Rule 45 prisoners to enable us to visit them appropriately, and officers facilitate our speaking to prisoners on request. Documentation is well organised and kept properly completed and up-to-date, including ACCT monitoring.

The prison makes every effort to keep time in segregation to a minimum, and there were no instances during the year where a prisoner was segregated continuously for over 42 days. Special accommodation was used on 7 occasions in 2017-18, typically for very short periods.

Facilities in the CSU have been improved during the year, with the associated exercise yard being reworked to provide two separate exercise areas, improving access to exercise for prisoners held in the unit. However, other facilities are in serious need of attention, with the shower facilities particularly poor. (See also section 7, below, in relation to showers and sanitary facilities across the prison more widely).

The IMB have regularly attended Segregation Review Board meetings throughout the year. Reviews are conducted in a thorough and professional manner and give the prisoner every opportunity to contribute. A member of the mental health team is always in attendance. It is pleasing to note that timing of reviews has been more regular this year than was noted in our previous report.

## **7 ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATION**

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The prison has seen improvements in areas that have been of long standing concern to the Board. A recreational area has been created outside the Virtual Training Centre, to allow fresh air breaks to take place from classrooms in a windowless environment. The recreational area for the Segregation Unit has been divided into two, which doubles the capacity for exercise, which is helpful when the unit is full.

The shower areas have long been an area of concern, particularly those in the gym. Also, this year the showers on C and D Wings have been out of action for short periods, not allowing prisoners to shower after work. Remedial work has been carried out in these areas, but problems continue to manifest themselves. Overall, the showers across the prison can only be described as inadequate and in need of refurbishment.

The prison has suffered from three leaking roofs. The two of felt roof construction are still not repaired, entailing the loss of two cells. A third roof is of tiled construction and was eventually repaired, but not before water ingress had damaged the structure and contents of rooms on three stories, and three rooms are still not re-occupied due delays in refurbishment of water damage. The delays in repairing this roof were increased because the tiled roof had very restricted access and required scaffolding to be erected close to a residential wing.

The kitchen facilities are rated 5 star, by the local Environmental Health inspection. All workers in the kitchen and on the serveries undergo in house food safety training. The workers in the kitchen can work towards Food Hygiene Level 2, and those on the serveries to Food Hygiene Level 1. In September a hot breakfast was introduced in support of changes to the core day intended to encourage the prisoners to behave as they would outside: to get out of bed, eat and prepare themselves for work. Prior to this change, they had been getting out of bed and going to work, possibly having eaten their breakfast the night before. This forced preparation seems to have worked, with education in particular noticing a quicker and more reactive start to the morning sessions.

Property is a concern of all prisoners within the justice system. Preston had no claims during the year for loss of property from prisoners transferred out of the prison. Within Preston many complaints are due to property taken from cells when a prisoner is forcibly removed to the Segregation Unit. Whilst ideally the cell should be locked as soon as possible and a cell clearance done, this is not always possible with dual occupancy, and property does go missing. Management has introduced procedures and monitoring to overcome this problem.

In October, 2017, a findings paper "Life in prison: Living conditions" was published by HM Inspectorate of Prisons. As an old Victorian prison, many of the comments are applicable, but Preston does not exhibit the worst examples of cleanliness nor the long times prisoners are locked in cells. Following the report, a survey of all cells was carried out by the prison, with particular reference to space per prisoner, toilet decency and general cleanliness. Two cells are being refurbished as a trial to see what can be achieved to accommodate the recommendations of this document.

This year it was planned to create three disability access compliant cells. Works were unable to carry out this work. Fortunately, the finance was carried over into 2018-2019 and work has since commenced.

The core day at Preston is that recommended under “benchmarking” with a minor alteration. The 6.30pm to 7.15pm period for 10% of the population to have association was removed and an earlier morning unlock was instigated to allow for a hot breakfast to be provided.

All prisoners know the published core day, and any curtailment of this is monitored daily. Due to staffing levels most weekends saw a landing being locked down for half a day. This was done on a rota, and prisoners were informed. Visits and exercise were operated. Due to increased staffing levels this has now been removed.

## **8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)**

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8.1 In our previous annual report, we highlighted as one of our main concerns that “The poor healthcare staffing levels and morale seen, during the reporting year [...] 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.”

8.2 From 1 April 2017, Spectrum Community Health CIC have been responsible for healthcare provision. Spectrum have put much effort during the year to establish sound arrangements and there are a number of positive signs which illustrate the improvement in service provision:

- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a focused inspection in February 2018, which was intended to assess improvements which had been made in relation to their areas of concern about provision in Preston (these were areas in which the CQC had judged that essential standards were not being met. Although this was not a full inspection, it did find that progress had been made in all of their areas of concern (as identified in March 2017).
- Spectrum have put much effort into ensuring staffing levels were improved and maintained, and staffing and morale have increased significantly since our previous report. There is still some use of agency nurses to maintain staffing numbers, but this is in most cases using agency staff who are familiar with Spectrum and Preston prison. (Underlying this is the wider issue of a national shortage of Band 5 nurses)
- It is also encouraging to see that effort is put into building the skills base of the healthcare staff within the prison, which as well as hopefully aiding retention facilitates responsiveness to changing demands on the service. For example, 92% of staff have been trained in dementia, and overall staff compliance with mandatory training was 95%.
- Healthcare services are accessible to prisoners, with all initial healthcare needs being assessed within 24 hours of reception. The average waiting time to see a GP is 4 days, and waiting times for both dental and ophthalmic services (both of which are subcontracted) are generally no longer than 4-6 weeks.

8.3 Governance arrangements for healthcare are well structured, with a Health Delivery Plan overseen by a monthly joint Local Delivery Board.

8.4 Areas which can still be improved:

- Some work has been done to identify suitable locations for conducting wing-based triage clinics within the prison, which would reduce the logistical cost of moving prisoners around the prison, but no such clinics as yet take place. This is understood to be due to ICT issues which would be costly to resolve in what is one of the older buildings in the prison estate.

- Applications to the IMB concerning healthcare have actually increased in 2017-18 by 23% over the previous year, despite an overall reduction in the number of applications. Upon analysis, some of this increase can be attributed to a focused effort to ensure appropriate treatments are prescribed to address health problems within a prison environment (which has meant that some prisoners have not continued with medications they may have been prescribed previously outside prison). However, that does not explain all of the increase in applications, and we are looking to use information on the healthcare complaints system and on the 'customer satisfaction' scheme introduced by Spectrum to better assess any underlying issues. Therefore, this aspect of healthcare will receive further attention in the coming year
- The maintenance and structure of the healthcare accommodation are in need of some attention to properly comply with infection control guidelines.

## 9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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9.1 NOVUS, a branch of Manchester College, provides education and other activities. It is an essential aspect of a prisoner's induction week and all prisoners are advised to enrol on a course which reflects individual needs. Individual courses are based on the following:

- Literacy level
- Numeracy level
- Length of stay
- Sentence plan
- Areas of interest
- Motivation

9.2 On average, 90% of the population of HMP Preston are at Level 1 or below for English and 88% at Level 1 or below for maths. This reinforces the importance of prisoners attending training in Functional Skills (FS) to address their educational needs in the key areas of maths, English and IT. 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, and courses such as 'Gym Functional Skills' and 'Health and Fitness' are split to include half of each session in the classroom and half in the gymnasium/sports hall.

9.3 Key points of note include:

- Education is viewed positively by prisoners and IMB discussions are held with them on a regular basis.
- VP prisoners have access to all the courses except mentoring and graphics.
- A large proportion of prisoners arrive at Entry Level in Functional Skills.
- Every prisoner is offered a place of work or other activity. An additional 50 places have been added to education provision in 2017/18.
- The prison ensures that Functional Skills are delivered by making it a conditional part of each work placement.

9.4 The average classroom efficiency in this academic year for the 2017/18 academic year was 63%. The target set by the North West prisons is 65%. Weekly meetings are being held to continually improve this figure. At the time of reporting, allocation to classes run at 81%. 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% education

failures, which places Preston top in the region and 0.44% prison failures which places them 3rd in the region.

## **10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT**

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- 10.1 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 referenced in Section 9, above), although a range of vocational activities such as sewing, catering, horticulture and painting and decorating are available.
- 10.2 In common with other prisons, HMP Preston functions with the assistance of prisoners in areas such as reception, laundry, kitchens, serveries and library. They are also employed as cleaners and painters and staff the Prisoner Information Desks on each wing, which act as a reference point for the prisoners to find out about many aspects of the prison
- 10.3 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 prison is intending to open a new (additional) workshop during 2018-19 in support of this. Currently there are sufficient activity places to engage around 85% of prisoners in purposeful activity (work or education). Most prisoners combine part-time work and education. The small number classified in full-time education are those on training courses. Painting and decorating account for twenty prisoners, industrial cleaning account for 10 prisoners, and horticulture account for sixteen prisoners. Prisoners that are not involved in any form of purposeful activity are those who are currently awaiting security clearance, undergoing education screening or refusing to work.
- 10.4 A Prisoner Needs Analysis was completed during the year and this is used by all services in the resettlement pathway. Available choices of activity are easily accessed by prisoners and applications are in general processed on the day of receipt, taking into account availability, any disabilities and security clearance. Overall industrial work in the establishment achieves an 84% take up and is the 3rd highest in the North West. However, whilst activities are rarely cancelled, and IMB observation indicates that prisoners do in general engage positively with their activities, the prison would like to see an improvement in attendance. They are aiming to improve this through a combination of increased encouragement from staff, in particular through the new key worker roles for officers to be rolled out in the coming year (2018-19), and through better management of attendance and linkage to the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme.
- 10.5 Where possible, reputable and recognized qualifications are offered to prisoners in preparation for release (such as City & Guilds) within the constraints described above. The prison also works with local employers, with several talks being offered to prisoners during the year by companies on potential employment opportunities. Prisoners are equipped with a curriculum vitae to assist with potential employment on release.

## **11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION**

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### **11.1 Offender Management**

Offender management is in general working well at HMP Preston, although applications to the IMB in this area are regularly received. As noted in previous reports, during the year the

Board received several applications regarding delays in completion of their Offender Assessment System (OASys) assessments, which were caused by staff shortages or temporary redeployment.

The prison is in the process of partnering with the Integrated Offender Management Teams of Lancashire and Cumbria Police, which will in the future facilitate better management of those prisoners assessed as higher risk back into the community.

### **11.2 Reducing Reoffending**

HMP Preston, as a local category B prison, does not deliver any accredited offender behaviour programmes. However, they do run interventions, funded either locally or in partnership with Sodexo, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), on family relationships and victim awareness. Courses on victim awareness, run in partnership with the local police and funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, are worthwhile: Over 50% of prisoners completing this course want to take part in the restorative justice process which is offered as a follow-on.

### **11.3 Housing**

Sodexo have sub-contracted the elements concerning the entry and exit interviews with prisoners to Shelter, along with the work to provide accommodation, finance and debt advice and employment upon release. It was pleasing to see that Shelter were again able to secure settled accommodation for over 90% of those released.

### **11.4 Encouraging family links**

HMP Preston has developed a new Children, Family, Significant Other and Care Leavers Policy which is intended to meet all the main recommendations in the Farmer Review, by having family and significant others involved in the management of a prisoner's sentence and be a key driver to support them in reducing reoffending whilst also hopefully reducing intergenerational crime. In pursuit of this, the prison has partnered with Partners of Prisoners ("POPS") and will be looking to build on this partnership in the coming year.

HMP Preston does not have a visitors centre, but this is a key objective for the prison following the 2017 HMIP report. They have partnered with Crossgate church, who have premises close by and are looking to provide a visitors centre making use of these premises. The potential new visitor centre will be of great benefit to families and significant others, and both prison and church are approaching the potential positively. It is hoped that this potential can be realized despite the absence of funding to support it.

## C Section – Work of Board

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The Board has lost three members during the year but has gained four new members who are progressing well through their induction, working with individual mentors.

During the reporting period, the Board has carried out its role via a variety of methods, including rota visits, dealing with applications from prisoners, attendance at segregation reviews, adjudications and prisoner consultative meetings as well as targeted monitoring of other areas such as prison training exercises and some specific meetings.

We convene a board meeting each month to review our work, and each meeting is attended either by the Governor or his Deputy to give us a detailed report on the previous month. Additionally, each meeting is followed by a targeted training session on a specific aspect of the prison or our work.

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Total number of visits to the Establishment	497
Total number of segregation reviews attended	80



## D Section - Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	18	25
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	5	8
C	Equality	5	4
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	26	19
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	49	56
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	20	41
F	Food and kitchens	8	2
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	83	67
H 1	Property within this establishment	25	59
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	28	37
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	5	17
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	37	31
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	39	22
K	Transfers	45	41
L	Miscellaneous	41	66
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	434	495

After the number of Applications dealt with having increased significantly during the previous reporting period, it has reduced somewhat this year. However, there is still some anecdotal evidence of prisoners not following the internal complaints procedure initially and being referred, by some Staff, to the IMB for matters which could have been resolved easily using the prison's internal systems.