



Annual Report of the **Independent Monitoring Board**

at

HMP Liverpool

for reporting Year
(1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017)

Published
November 2018



Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

PREFACE

It should be noted that this report deals only with observations made by the IMB for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. Since that time a new regime has been in place at HMP Liverpool and this report does not reflect performance since 31st December 2017.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Sections

Section	Topic	Page
1	Statutory Role	4
2	Executive Summary	5
3	Description of the Prison	6

Evidence Sections

4	Safety	7
5	Equality and Fairness	9
6	Segregation/Care and Separation Unit	11
7	Accommodation (including communication)	12
8	Healthcare (including mental health and social care)	14
9	Education and Other Activities	16
10	Work, Vocational Training and Employment	17
11	Resettlement Preparation	18

12	The Work of the Board	19
13	Applications to the IMB	20

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 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. MAIN ISSUES

(i) Accommodation

A regular aspect of monitoring is to inspect cells that provide accommodation for prisoners. The condition of many cells during the reporting period was unacceptable: in many of the nine wings there were cells with no electrics, blocked toilets, no running water, broken windows and smashed water basins. Cells that were put offline were frequently put back into use before repairs are made, to accommodate prisoners.

(ii) Mental Health Patients and Elderly Patients

The Board has noted that there were delays in transferring mentally ill patients to psychiatric hospital. This resulted in increased pressure on healthcare staff who were dealing with the demands of health treatment for others while coping with the requirements of the mentally ill. The numbers of elderly and frail prisoners are increasing over the whole estate and HMP Liverpool struggles to cope because older prisoners have significant health care needs and staff are not trained in social care. In addition the Victorian design of HMP Liverpool does not lend itself to the needs of those with mobility issues.

(iii) AMEY Contract

The Board has concerns regarding the general maintenance of the prison and the delays in essential repair works. From the Board's observations the current provider Amey had a backlog of 2000 works requests at the time of the preparation of this report.

(iv) Prisoner Activities due to Closure of Workshops

The Board needs to reiterate the lack of workshops to provide activities for prisoners. Only seven of the twelve workshops operated during the reporting period; two of those were either not full or only sporadically occupied; and few provided opportunities for training and gainful employment on release. One was used as a Welcome Centre, two were used for C&R training and a further facility was converted to a gym.

TO THE MINISTER

Will the Minister urge his colleague the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to increase the national provision of secure psychiatric beds so that no prisoner waits an unacceptably long time for a suitable placement to meet their mental health needs?

What are the plans for dealing with the unacceptable living conditions in the prison, and for managing the maintenance contract?

What agreement has been reached between the Minister, the CPS and the Home Office to ensure the effective prosecution of prisoners involved in violence to other prisoners and staff?

TO HMPPS

Should old and frail prisoners be in the mainstream estate?

TO THE GOVERNOR

What plans are there to increase the number and attendance at workshops and ensure that they provide meaningful training and qualifications?

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

- i. Liverpool Prison is a Category B/C Local Prison serving the Merseyside area and Courts.
- ii. The population of the prison on 1st January 2017 was 1084 but had reduced to 950 on 31st December 2017. The maximum capacity on 1st January 2017 was 1300 and 1248 on 31st December 2017.
- iii. Liverpool Prison is a Victorian prison and consequently faces ongoing problems with the infrastructure of the main body of the prison which houses cells and showers. This part of the prison has suffered due to lack of capital investment in the past. The cells vary in size from single occupancy to dormitory cells holding up to six prisoners. Generally the cells are in poor condition and the shower issues are still being addressed.
- iv. The prison is split into 9 wings, A, B, F, G, H, I, J, K and the Healthcare Centre, with some wings providing specific roles within the prison:

A Wing	-	First Night
B Wing	-	First Night Remand
J Wing	-	Basic Prisoners and Vulnerable Prisoner overflow
K Wing	-	Vulnerable Prisoners
- v. The following contractors deliver services in Liverpool Prison:
 - a) Healthcare - Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT)
 - b) Learning & Skills - The Manchester College/NOVUS
 - c) Resettlement - National Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO)
 - d) Works - AMEY

4 SAFETY

Violence

The instances of violence by prisoner on prisoner and on staff increased during the reporting period. This often corresponded with the increase in the use of psychoactive substances. The Board considers that this makes the prison a more dangerous place to be in. Prosecuting offenders in custody can have a number of effects. It can add to a sentence or have a bearing upon eventual release. The board requests in the strongest possible terms that the need to prosecute prisoners who commit acts of violence and other offences involving aggressive behaviour should be recognised at the highest level and that police and CPS should address these issues seriously and consistently.

The Prison Service has faced endless change over the last 30 years, much of it beneficial but much of it not. The Service needs a period of stability over several years, during which time it can assimilate the changes that have been introduced without threats of further disruption

Drugs and Mobile Phones

The ingress of illegal drugs and mobile phones remains of serious concern to the Board. NPS (new psychoactive substances) are still the drug of choice within the establishment and are an increasing problem across the whole prison estate. Effects on the individual vary from person to person and can cause their behaviour to become erratic and violent towards others. They are difficult to detect despite sniffer dogs which are frequently used and they exacerbate the deterioration of mental health and self-harm. The substances appear to be readily available and can cause death and violence.

The prison has a robust policy for dealing with mobile phones which enter the establishment. During the reporting period, searches were carried out by officers and sniffer dogs; visitors were always searched and staff were searched occasionally. Phones were brought in in a variety of guises from toys to cigarette lighters that can be bought locally off the internet. The Board is glad to report that the measures taken by the Security Department were detailed and comprehensive, though it still continues to be a learning curve for the Security Department and staff alike.

In the light of the increase in illicit items thrown over the walls due to HMP Liverpool's proximity to the main dual carriageway and houses that back onto the prison, the Board considers the use of dedicated drug dogs on site to patrol grounds and inside wings would be of great value to the prison. We realise this resource is limited but would greatly increase the use of finds and maybe act as a deterrent.

Netting Incidents

Netting incidents were a major disruption to the prison during the reporting period, curtailing regimes and stopping movements to work activities, hospital appointments, prisoner association and phone calls. Prisoners were put on lockdown during such events. The local C&R teams are not allowed to go onto the netting.

Security Department

Security meetings were held monthly and a member of the IMB attends. Statistics and detailed intelligence was discussed in detail at these meetings. Intelligence received was used to conduct searches of prisoners prior to potential incidents to prevent violence and also to monitor prisoners. It was also used to support other departments such as the Offender Management Unit (OMU) and in parole decision making.

Towards the end of the reporting period priorities were to reduce fights between prisoners and assaults on staff and reduce the availability of mobile phones and drugs in the prison.

C & R Teams

The Board reported last year on the lack of kit for use by the C&R Team and are pleased to report new kit has now been purchased. After each incident at HMP Liverpool, full debriefs take place and final debrief is conducted with staff. Staff involved watch camera footage of the event and a C&R instructor who was not involved will also watch the footage to give their perspective on the incident. HMP Liverpool C&R Team would benefit from additional held video cameras for use in instances involving removal of prisoners.

PEEPS (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan)

These were regularly maintained and circulated during the reporting period. Nonetheless the IMB is concerned about the prison's ability to evacuate the increasing numbers of older less able prisoners in the event of an emergency out of core hours.

Deaths in Custody

There were 4 deaths in custody in 2017. 3 were self-inflicted and 1 was of natural causes. The IMB monitor open ACCTs during it regular monitoring visits.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

An Equality meeting is held every other month at HMP Liverpool, which an IMB member attends.

Equality in HMP Liverpool is monitored by Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFs) together with a secure and private system for their submission and response and should be available in all areas of the prison. These forms may be completed by prisoners, staff or visitors.

The number of DIRFs received in the year is shown in the table below.

Protected characteristic	Number of DIRF's received
a) Disability	6
b) Gender reassignment	1
c) Race	30
d) Religion or belief	2
e) Multi characteristics	10
f) Not specified	4
Total	53

All prisoners are encouraged to disclose disabilities on reception.

The IMB found the prison courts and escort contractors were informed as regards prisoners' disabilities and needs and were well monitored and victims of discrimination were well protected.

Efforts were made to identify and record whether a prisoner has mental or physical impairment of any form and consideration was given to consider how prisoners' conditions can be adjusted to fit in with the establishment's daily regime, while HMP Liverpool tries to transfer prisoners with some of these needs. It is not always possible as the receiving establishment cannot provide the spaces or appropriate facilities.

The Chaplaincy covered all religions in the prison during the reporting period and were involved in pastoral areas, i.e. family visits.

The kitchen covered all required diets and meal variations.

Prisoners aged 50 + were usually placed on lower floors to help with ease of access to facilities. Prisoners of state retirement age are not normally required to work but may work for standard rates of pay provided suitable activities are available in the establishment. They are required to participate in other purposeful activity as identified by the sentence/training plan and paid standard rate for the sessions.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy have also had a very challenging year with lack of staff but still managed to run a multi-faith administration, including Buddhist, Church of England, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Jehovah's Witness and Spiritualist. Application boxes were placed on each wing for prisoners to submit. The prison maintained a calendar of special religious days and care was taken for appropriate foods to be provided during these periods by the kitchens. They provided a vital role to prisoners and families and great

comfort in times of bereavement. The Board were impressed by their involvement with prisoners in Healthcare who were in need of palliative care.

Key Workers

The key worker scheme now has 700 prisoners with named officers to sit and discuss any issues they may have. The Officer has a 45 minute slot for each prisoner a week - 35 minutes for a talk on any issues and 10 minutes paperwork. The effectiveness of this approach has yet to be proved.

Self-isolating Prisoners

An isolated prisoner scheme was set up with officers on all wings reporting and taking action on any isolated prisoners they may have on their wing, who have no visitors, may not engage with anyone and may not want to leave their cell. Prisoners are given support from staff and agencies on any issues they may have. The effectiveness of this policy has yet to be seen.

6 SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

The environment in the Segregation Unit was poor during the reporting period. Many cells were frequently damaged and dirty. Communal areas were littered and the relatively new exercise yard was frequently littered with rubbish.

Staff in segregation faced some very challenging behaviour presented by the prisoners, but most knew the men well and had good engagement with them.

Prisoner Reviews

The IMB attended prisoner Rule 45 reviews to ensure they were properly conducted in accordance with set procedures and were properly documented. The IMB were impressed by the fairness and respect shown to prisoners during these proceedings and sat in on 310 prisoner reviews in 2017.

7 ACCOMMODATION (including communication)

The condition of many cells was unacceptable in many of the nine wings with accommodation with no electrics, blocked toilets, no running water, broken windows and smashed water basins. Cells that were put off-line were frequently put back on to again accommodate prisoners. Prisoners and staff should not be expected to live and work within such environmentally unhealthy residential conditions.

Cell Bells

Despite the relatively recent installation of cell bells many were not working and many were faulty. TV reception was often not working and is costly to the prison to repair.

Kitchens

The IMB were impressed by the management, staff team and the prisoner workforce in the kitchens, who were well motivated to produce meals on time each day, often working under very difficult conditions. The kitchens were at crisis point for a period of time in 2017 and are still without essential working equipment. Problems were further exacerbated by the slow response from Amey. Much of the catering equipment is outdated and resulted in cold meals being served at lunchtime and hot meals at teatime. New menus were prepared and special diets catered for such as vegetarian, vegan, Jewish, halal and medical for the most part of 2017.

Grounds

While outside areas such as grass and flower beds were kept in good order, the gullies still presented a very challenging area to keep in good order as prisoners threw food waste and other rubbish through broken windows. A team of cleaners has now been employed to keep these gullies clean on a regular basis. Prisoners who are on these work parties must consent to Hepatitis A and B vaccinations and be of good behaviour. The external appearance of the prison has improved considerably since the implementation of this policy.

Prisoners also rip sheets up and hang them out of the windows to transfer illicit items to other cells. These often are left hanging out of the windows or get caught in the razor wire.

An infestation of rats was prevalent and pest controllers are now in every fortnight to address the problem.

Reception

Analysis of the monthly movement through reception in and out of the prison provided in the table below evidences the high level of occupation in the prison during the reporting period.

Movements Through Reception 2017

Month	In	Out	Total
January	596	650	1246
February	641	651	1292
March	656	691	1347
April	501	545	1046
May	559	565	1124
June	551	590	1141
July	625	570	1195
August	570	594	1164
September	643	713	1356
October	582	649	1231
November	642	729	1371
December	539	619	1158
Totals	7105	7566	14671

8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

Healthcare

Although robust systems were put in place for newly arrived prisoners during the reporting period, validations of prisoners prescribed medications could not always be completed on arrival due to time of receipt. The issue of internal transfers not arriving with sufficient medication is being addressed nationally. Unfortunately should any medication need to be ordered it can lead to delays in prisoner treatment.

Prisoners requiring social care support are increasing across the whole of the prison estate and there is a lack of availability of social care staff and facilities.

Wheelchair users have limited access to some areas of the prison such as the chapel, gymnasium and library.

During the reporting period the Board was concerned by the long waiting lists for treatment and uneven and untimely provision of medication. It would be wrong to apportion all responsibility to Healthcare Departments because prisoners do not always keep appointments or officers are unavailable to escort them. This results in fewer available appointments for others and is an area that needs some further examination. Average non-attendance during the reporting period was in the region of 30% for appointments with the GP, dentist and nurse led clinical appointments.

The average wait for GP appointments was 10 days and for dentist appointments 14 days during the period.

An area of particular concern to the Board was the provision of mental health treatment. Mental health teams within prisons reported an excessively high workload which had to be managed with inadequate levels of frequently overworked staff. It is suggested that urgent research needs to be carried out to identify the numbers of prisoners who suffer from mental health in order that proper provision may be made for their treatment and care. Levels of violence in HMP Liverpool have risen in recent times. Amongst the reasons for this, it seems clear that mental illness and severe personality disorders, which may include diagnosable mental illness, figures significantly. These prisoners put staff and other prisoners at risk. The sectioning of prisoners and the transfer to mental health facilities is taking an unacceptable amount of time, making it necessary on occasion to house them in the Separation and Care Unit due to their disruptive behaviour. This is not an acceptable situation but unfortunately unavoidable. They are monitored by healthcare professionals and afforded care and medication if appropriate. While prison staff are offered some guidance from the mental health team it still puts strain on the ability of officers to carry out normal duties

Generally the healthcare team had good morale during the reporting period, despite difficulties within the environment they work in. New staff were to be appointed in March 2018 when the vetting and clearance procedures were completed for them.

Inpatient Unit

This has 22 cells with 2 gated cells though a number were out of order due to damage or risk of infection. These were logged on Planet FM (repair reporting service) but repairs constantly had to be chased up by staff. Both gated cells were out of commission for several months as a result of damage caused by prisoners. The Board found issues with Amey not fulfilling their contractual obligations. Cleaning and repairs were not carried out.

Staff complained that there was a lack of officers' supervision on wings to allow for diversion of prescription medicines.

During the reporting period

- a) GP services were provided by using locum staff
- b) A permanent dentist was employed
- c) There were no full time psychology or psychiatry personnel employed
- d) There were two permanent nurse practitioners

A new service will be provided by "Spectrum" in April 2018 with the following services sub-contracted:

Mental Health	Merseycare
Substance misuse	"Change Grow, Live" (CGL)
Dentistry	"Time for Teeth"

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Education

Education is provided by Manchester College under the brand name of “NOVUS”. Courses that were available in 2017 are listed below:

Functional skills, Maths and English Entry to L2

ESOL

Art L1-L2

Radio

Family and wellbeing

ICT –E3-L2

Painting and decorating L2 Diploma

Joinery L2 Diploma

Plastering L2 Diploma

Catering and Barista L1 and L2 NVQ

Performing Manufacturing Operations NVQ L2

Employment support

Vocational training is provided in:

Catering and hospitality

Industrial cleaning

Plastering and dry lining

Painting and decorating

Site joinery

These are discussed in further detail in section 10 below.

Staff Mess

The staff mess underwent refurbishment in 2017 and prisoners were able to paint a large mural of the skyline of Liverpool. Within the Staff Mess Manchester College ran prisoners’ training at four vocational training levels: NVQ1, NVQ2, Professional Cook and Customer Service. It was well attended by prisoners and provided a varied menu for staff and visitors alike. The Board considers this excellent training for future employment.

Gym

The gym continued to be an integral and positive part of prisoner activities. But the Board must draw attention to the football pitch which has for a number of years been unusable due to urgent need to be resurfaced and desperately needs resources to address this issue. Showers in the gym have proved to be unusable and in need of repair with prisoners unable to shower after workouts.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

Again the Board needs to reiterate the lack of workshops to provide purposeful activity for prisoners.

Workshops 1 and 2 - Run by Fusion provide 12 week courses in bricklaying, plastering, wood work and window frames. These two workshops situated on two floors can take up to thirty prisoners in each floor and are very popular. They are run in partnership with Manchester College and learners receive a Level 1 Diploma in Basic Constructions Skills.

Workshop 3 Laundry - This is a very busy workshop that had previously only taken vulnerable prisoners but is now been given over to H Wing prisoners with special needs. It takes laundry from several other prisons as it has the capacity for large industrial machines.

Workshop 4 - This makes leather belts and pouches for batons supplying the prison estate and others, for example the MOD.

Workshop 5 - Makes sheets and towels for the establishment and other prisons. This workshop is poorly manned with prisoners and could take on more.

Workshop 6 - This does excellent work refitting and recycling children's and adult bikes in partnership with charitable foundations affording prisoners the opportunity to take pride in their work. These are sent to African and Eastern bloc countries and Iraq.

Workshop 7 - This was closed but has now had gym equipment supplied and will be used for vulnerable prisoners.

Workshop 8 - Has now been turned into a Welcome Centre for newly received prisoners who receive advice on the rules and regulations governing.

Workshop 9 - Closed.

Workshop 10 - This is given over to upholstery and does work for Liverpool University but this is sporadic and often only has a complement of 5 prisoners working.

Workshop 11 - Given over for C&R Training.

Workshop 12 - Given over for C&R Training.

Greenhouse - After being closed now for several years the greenhouse is now being used just occasionally on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

As last year the Minister may deduce not many workshops give prisoners the opportunity for training in gainful employment on release from custody.

VP Workshop

The VP workshop is completely separate from other wings and prisoners with VP status are taken directly into the workshop from K Wing (the VP Wing). This workshop gives comprehensive training in bike repairs, computer skills, sign printing and preparing of breakfast packs. Eighty prisoners are given work in the VP workshop. Unfortunately one of the two computer rooms in the workshop has been closed for structural reasons which lessens the opportunity for these prisoners to develop IT skills.

Offender Management Unit

It is vital that this unit functions effectively because offender managers have responsibility for managing individual sentences, sentence planning, prisoners transfer disseminating information and advice etc. When staff shortages are identified, offender supervisors are redeployed to other functions. No one covers their normal day job which then falls well behind schedule. A consequence of this is prisoners frequently state either that they do not know who their offender supervisor is or they have yet to see one. This can result in delay in sentence planning.

Whilst short sentence prisoners often feel their opportunities are reduced because of limited course options available to them, long term prisoners may not be offered offending behaviour programmes until late in their sentences when effective intervention may not be possible because of the long term negative effects of imprisonment. It is recommended that the utmost priority is given to maintaining the effective and consistent operation of departments responsible for delivery of such programmes and that such delivery is consistent during a prisoner's sentence.

THE WORK OF THE BOARD

We endorse the approach by the new Governor who took up the post In October 2017.

The Board acknowledge the work of management and staff .The Board also wish to place on record their thanks to management and staff for their continued support and cooperation through the application system. The Board is also grateful for the efficiency, hard work and support from the Clerk of the Board and staff of the Business Hub.

The Board has had a difficult year with fewer Board members than the recommended complement which is exacerbated by difficulty in recruiting and retaining of members. The Board is currently addressing this issue as a matter of priority.

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	6
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9
Total number of visits to the Establishment	443
Rota Visits	52
Total number of segregation reviews attended	310

APPLICATIONS TO THE IMB

Details of the applications received by the Board during the year is provided below.

CODE	SUBJECT	2016	2017
A	Medical	190	51
B	Property	164	65
C	Transfers	30	62
D	Visits	20	5
E	HDC	12	6
F	Parole	13	8
G	Prisoners Monies	20	67
H	Immigration	10	2
I	Release Date	8	10
J	Assaults	3	1
K	Workshops	5	2
L	Categorisation	7	12
M	Pin Phones	11	32
N	Education	12	9
O	Canteen	8	8
P	Adjudications	9	10
Q	Food	15	4
R	Drugs	5	2
S	Early Release Scheme	7	4
T	Mail	23	12
U	Miscellaneous	24	46
	TOTAL	596	418

Application forms are available to all prisoners on the nine wings of the prison. These are situated on the sides of sealed 'posting facilities' which are distinctly coloured blue and clearly marked IMB. These are opened weekly by IMB members and applications dealt with in a timely manner and recorded in the IMB Office.