



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

**HMP Whatton**

**for reporting Year**  
**1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

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*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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### **Introductory Sections**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Statutory Role</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Description of Establishment</b>	<b>4</b>

### **Evidence Sections**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Equality and Fairness</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Segregation/Care and Separation Unit</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Accommodation (including communication)</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Healthcare (including mental health and social care)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Education and Other Activities</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Work, Vocational Training and Employment</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Resettlement Preparation</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Annexes**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>The Work of the IMB</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Applications to the IMB</b>	<b>19</b>

## Sections 1 – 3

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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 Whatton for the period 1st June 2017 to 31st May 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.

### **MAIN JUDGEMENTS**

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

In the experience of the Board, prisoners appear to be treated with respect and fairness. However, there were occasional failures in service delivery that caused unfairness. Examples include the transfer of prisoners' property and the provision of healthcare.

There are concerns about mixing a younger cohort with a large older cohort. Whilst we recognise the calming influence of the older prisoners, they tell us that they are vulnerable to bullying and coercion by the younger cohort.

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

Prisoners are treated with humanity. However, the sub-standard accommodation in B Wing continues to raise concerns. Projected refurbishment of the heating pipework has not yet been commissioned.

The Board has concerns about the healthcare provision.

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

Mostly, prisoners are well-prepared for release. However, some issues remain: accommodation on release and the employment of men convicted of sex offences. In addition, there remains a shortage of Category D places within the prison estate that will accept prisoners convicted of sexual offences. This results in prisoners being released directly from HMP Whatton (a Category C prison).

### **MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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#### **TO THE MINISTER**

- a. Will the Minister consider the changing demographics of the prisoner population and put in place a national strategy for the older prisoner? (Section 4.3)
  - b. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Mr Rory Stewart MP Minister of State for Justice responded to last year's report by saying, "The latest Estates Investment Proposal development bid to refurbishment to replace B wing's heating pipework and boiler has recently been approved and added to the Ministry of Justice Estates Directive programme for delivery, although the commissioning of the works and estimated date of completion is yet to be confirmed." Are we likely to see any development during the next reporting year? (Section 7.3)
  - c. Is the Minister satisfied that the NHS England commissioning process was appropriately focussed on the need to provide quality healthcare services to a complex and vulnerable group of prisoners? (Section 8)
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- d. Is the Minister satisfied that the Commissioning process was fair and equitable to all tenders, when Care and Custody (Mitie) have been subsidised substantially after the award of the contract as they have been unable to deliver a service within their original bid price? (Section 8)
- e. Will the Minister engage with other Government Departments to ensure that prisoners due for release are given advance notification of suitable accommodation? (Section 11.5)

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

Will the Prison Service:

- a. Take positive action to ensure that prisoners' property moves with them when they transfer to another establishment? We, and other prisons, report this annually without satisfactory solutions being offered. Over a number of years, prisoners accumulate personal property which is not sent on to them resulting in considerable frustration and expensive claims for compensation. (Section 4.10)
- b. Expedite the unresolved issue of providing out-of-hours verification of any death at the prison as a matter of some urgency? (Section 4.14)

#### **TO THE GOVERNOR**

Will the Governor:

- a. Review the processes needed for chasing and charting the progress of prisoners' property? The process of uniting prisoners with their belongings is frustrating, cumbersome and overly prolonged. (Section 4.10)
- b. Review the internal complaints procedure to make it timely, reliable and credible? (Section 5.15)
- c. Review the staffing of the Care and Separation Unit and support the proposals submitted to the Reprofile Team for additional resources to ensure that a second prison officer is on duty throughout the day? (Section 6.5)

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

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**3.1** HMP Whatton is located in Nottinghamshire and is a Category C training prison for male prisoners convicted of sexual offences against adults and children. The Certified Normal Capacity is 740 prisoners, the Operational Capacity is 841 and the average population this reporting year was 833. HMP Whatton is one of the largest specialist prisons in Europe to offer offending behaviour programmes to people with convictions for sexual offences. The establishment also offers a wide range of learning and skills programmes as well as employment opportunities, such as manufacturing and gardening.

**3.2** The prison's residential accommodation consists of 14 residential wings (A1-8; B1-3; and C1-3) and a Care and Separation Unit attached to the A3 residential unit. Accommodation comprises a mixture of single and double cells, modern cells (equipped with en-suite toilet, washing and showering facilities) and older cells (equipped with an in-cell toilet but shared shower facilities). B Wing accommodation remains, in the Board's view, unfit for purpose and conditions have been criticised previously by the IMB and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

**3.3** Accommodation for purposeful activity includes a sports hall (including three badminton courts and a cardio suite), gymnasium with weight training facilities, manufacturing workshops, a large education unit and a large kitchen facility specifically for the use of prisoners undertaking the NVQ in catering. The establishment also has a well-resourced library. The Healthcare Unit is adequately-equipped and includes an end of life suite and dementia care suite. However, the Healthcare Unit is too small for the number of prisoners who need to use it and the Board continues to be disappointed that business plans previously submitted by the Governor for improvement to the healthcare facilities have not been progressed.

**3.4** Outside the prison secure compound, there is a purpose-built Visitor Centre which is currently managed under contract with the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT). During the reporting year the centre processed 15,332 visitors. The prison also has an external contract with Inspire, a social enterprise, for the supply of library literature etc. There are three externally commissioned services for provision of healthcare (provided by Mitie), facilities management (provided by Amey) and learning and skills (managed by Milton Keynes College). The prison also has a contract with Age UK and the Carers Federation and during the reporting year the prison has built links with Age UK, Circles UK, The Safer Living Foundation, Workers' Educational Association and other Third Sector agencies in order to improve the resettlement process for older prisoners and those with learning difficulties.

## Evidence Sections 4 – 11

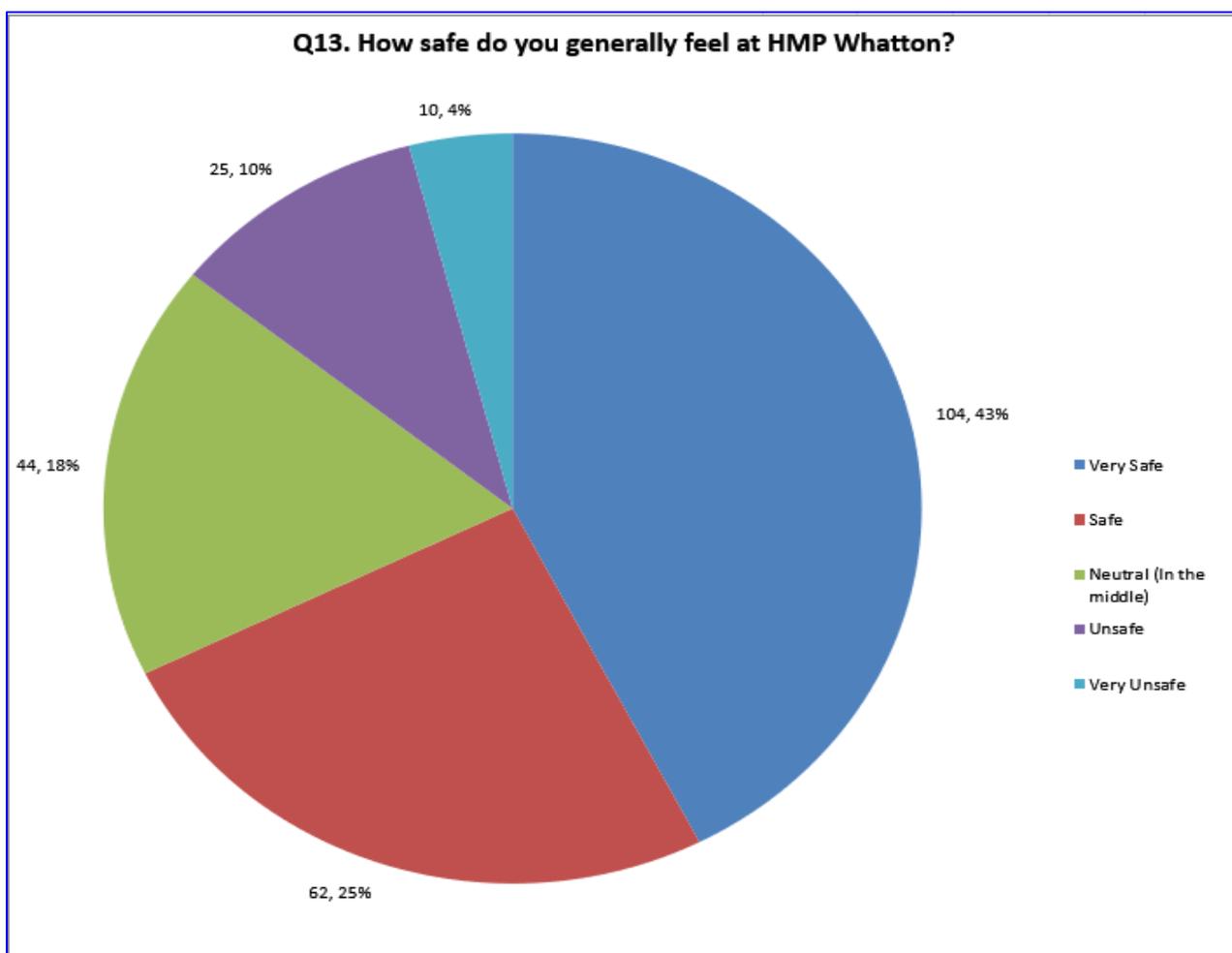
### 4. SAFETY

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#### Vulnerability

**4.1** Safer Custody Meetings are held monthly with good attendance and a commitment to creating robust care plans. Chaplaincy, Health Care, Mental Health, Listeners, Insiders, Safer Custody and other agencies are represented. Each submits a report on safer custody issues. The IMB routinely attend these meetings. Safer Custody statistics are presented to all representatives at the meeting to make all departments aware of any trends that might be developing within the prison population.

**4.2** Compared with comparator prisons, levels of prisoner-on-prisoner and prisoner-on-staff violence at HMP Whatton are very low. The IMB considers that HMP Whatton remains a safe prison with a positive environment for both prisoners and staff. This view is partly derived from prisoners' direct comments to the IMB when they contrast their experience with that in their previous prisons and from statistics showing low levels of violence at the prison. The 2017 Safer Custody survey shows that only 28.9% of prisoners returned the questionnaire, however, the majority of prisoners who did respond to the questionnaire indicated that they felt safe in the prison:



*Prisoners Reported Feelings of Safety*

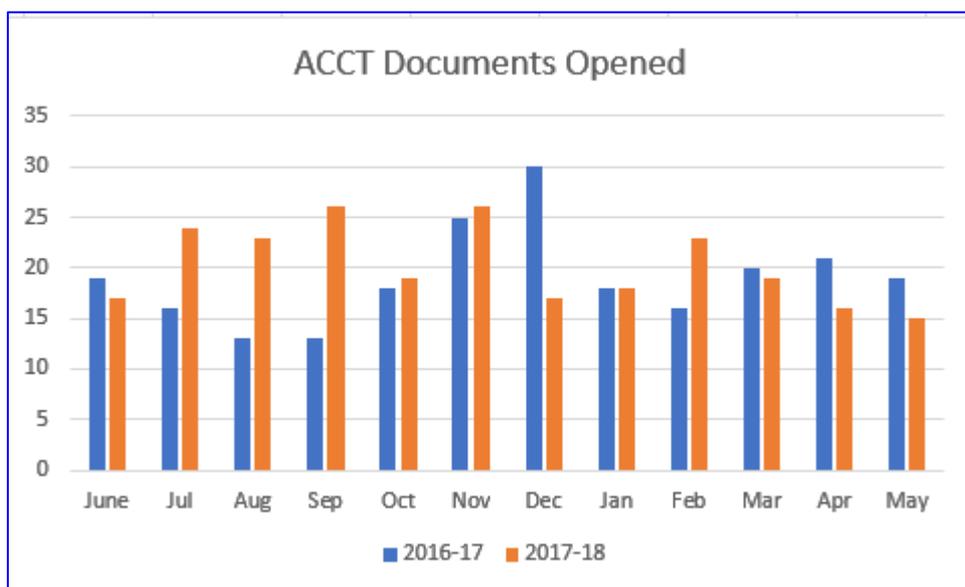
**4.3** Although reported bullying levels remain low, the Board is concerned that they may be under-reported. This is based on discussions with prisoners, whilst completing applications and whilst observing adjudications. This may be because of a change in the prison demographics, particularly with an influx of younger prisoners presenting a different profile to HMP Whatton’s traditional cohort. However, the prison works hard to isolate and challenge the behaviours of alleged bullies, transferring them from the establishment if needed. Procedures for prisoners to report bullying anonymously are adhered to and Personal Officers (now being replaced by Key Workers under the OMiC scheme) are available on a one to one basis to all prisoners.

**4.4** Use of Force levels remain low and management meetings are held quarterly to review any incidents and to verify that correct procedures were followed. An IMB representative regularly monitors these meetings.

**4.5** Prisoners have access to the Samaritans phone and to trained Listeners within the prison. The number of trained Listeners and Insiders has increased to 27 and 15 respectively. Listeners and Insiders are easily identifiable by their coloured polo shirts, and their cells are also marked so prisoners can easily find them on the accommodation wings. A member of the Chaplaincy Service attends the Safer Custody meeting and presents a report and statistics relating to the number of prisoners they have seen during the preceding month.

**ACCT and Self-Harm**

**4.6** Our monitoring of Assessment, Care in Custody and Treatment procedures (ACCT) confirms that procedures are adhered to and that the needs of vulnerable prisoners are carefully considered. Two hundred and forty-three (243) ACCT documents were opened for prisoners deemed to be at risk during our reporting period, compared with 228 last year. Effective reviews are held, and ACCT documents are audited for quality. In addition, Board members regularly review the relevant documentation and have found that officers undertake the ACCT process with care and sensitivity. Board members monitor ACCT reviews.

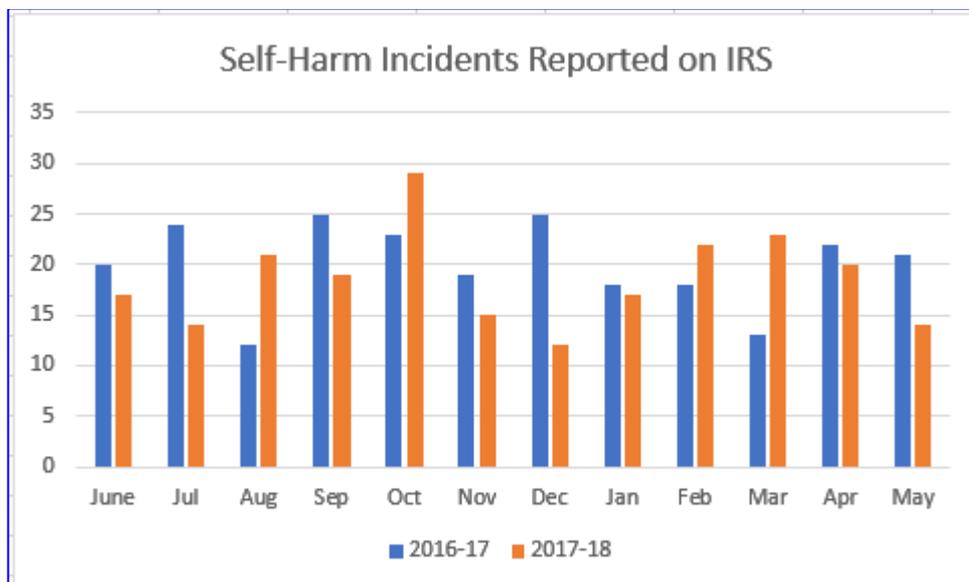


*Comparison of ACCT Documents Opened*

**4.7** The roll-out of the Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention course (SASH) has seen 251 members of staff trained during this reporting period with further monthly courses planned.

IMB members will be attending the training to give them a better understanding of procedures that require monitoring.

**4.8** The number of self-harm incidents reported on Incident Reporting System (IRS) was 223 compared with 240 incidents for the previous reporting period.



*Comparison of Self-Harm Incidents Reported On IRS*

### **Reception and Prisoner Property**

**4.9** Reception is staffed by experienced officers who receive prisoners in a professional and positive manner. However, the Board is concerned that it has been reported regularly at the Safer Custody Meetings, that the 'First Night Officer' has been dropped from the duty rota to cover other duties. Staff have voiced concern as to the reduction in this provision because timely interviews and assessments are not taking place thereby delaying the prisoners' induction process.

**4.10** The IMB continues to be concerned about the loss of prisoners' property when they are being transferred in from other prisons and have witnessed the time and effort required to try to recover lost property. Complaints are being sent to other prisons that are not being answered and prisoners are not receiving their property.

### **Drugs and Substance Abuse**

**4.11** Comments from prisoners, supported by the Senior Management Team, and an increase in drug related medical incidents, suggest that there has been an increase in the amount of psychoactive substances (e.g. Spice) being introduced into the prison. Officers make regular cell searches and Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) is routinely carried out. The prison reaches or exceeds its targets for random testing. Search dogs are regularly used in searching for drugs across the prison premises.

**4.12** Targeted searches have resulted in several significant finds of "hooch" that had been secreted on the wings. The Senior Management Team are taking positive action to reduce the production and storage of illegal alcohol in the prison.

## **Deaths in Custody**

**4.13** There have been 7 Deaths in Custody during the reporting period, all from natural causes. All deaths are reported to the police and to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). The IMB were consulted by the PPO investigators and have received a copy of their reports. Family Liaison Officers continue to work with bereaved families in a way that is respectful, appropriate and sensitive to their needs. Within the prison, staff are mindful of the impact deaths have on other prisoners and provide compassionate support to them.

**4.14** The Board were concerned about the delay in obtaining verification of death for a prisoner who died on Christmas Day. At that time, the prison was unable to obtain the services of a doctor to verify death which resulted in the deceased remaining in a cell for approximately 16 hours before being transferred to the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, with death finally being verified some 19 hours after he was found. This, although not the fault of the prison, raises issues of dignity and decency for the deceased as well as the inevitable distress caused to staff. We understand that the local NHS Care Commissioning Group have still not resolved the issue of providing an out-of-hours doctor to verify deaths at the prison.

## **5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS**

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**5.1** The Equality Department is administered by two band-3 staff and a prisoner acting as the Equality Orderly. Whilst lacking a senior manager due to re-deployment, the staff have been described as acting 'beyond their pay grade'. The Whatton Equality Action Team (WEAT) meets on a bi-monthly basis and has a range of monitoring and reporting processes across the relevant protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2011. A typical meeting is chaired by a governor, with a team of 9 staff and 6 Prisoner Representatives. The latter speak for deaf prisoners, the black and minority ethnic group (BME), foreign national prisoners, Gypsy/Romany/Traveller/Showman (GRT), Gay, Bi and Trans (LGBT) and older prisoners (>55). Each group has their own forum open to all with that Characteristic and hold various events, such as Black History Month or Autism awareness.

**5.2** The IMB chair viewed a selection of the Diversity Incident Reporting Forms (DIRF). All 24 documents examined gave an unbiased investigation and acknowledged the views of all concerned. DIRFs received this year are 60% down on the same period last year. Whilst the numbers are too few to perform any statistical analysis, more frequent topics relate to Disability and Gender Reassignment. Independent of DIRFs, disabled individuals are asked to declare to Equalities on an annual basis any changes to their condition.

**5.3** A Home Office Immigration Enforcement officer attends a foreign national prisoner forum held every 6 weeks. That officer holds a one-to-one bi-monthly advice session. As of writing, there are 19 such prisoners including two IS91 prisoners, i.e. subject to detention in custody under Immigration Act powers.

**5.4** The OPAL (Older Prisoners Activities and Learning) group supported by Age UK offers activities nearly every day from film, to music, to exercise. They record in the region of 900 prisoner attendances each month.

**5.5** Active recruitment continues for Social Care Advocates who help disabled prisoners by fetching meals, wheelchair pushing and assisting in everyday care, but not personal care.

**5.6** A Young Prisoner group relaunched in March with a workshop by the Geese Theatre Company and hip-hop Shakespeare events.

**5.7** The GRT group have supported Autism awareness events and held their own successful outdoor event complete with a miniature barrel top caravan. The only complaint is of a shortage of money to pay for ethnic foods.

**5.8** HMP Whatton is working towards the National Autistic Society's Autism Accreditation.

**5.9** The BME group who comprise ~9% of the HMP Whatton population express the perception that they are excluded from trusted jobs and are less likely to move to certain wings. WEAT monitor employment and education applications and their allocation by ethnicity. These figures show no statistical difference between ethnic groups. But until recently all 27 orderlies were from non-BME ethnic groups. Conversely, 7% of prisoners in the privileged DHL jobs are BME. One possible cause of any disparity is that non-White prisoners may be less likely to apply for such roles that are openly advertised.

**5.10** HMP Whatton hosts prisoners spanning 24 different religions. The only issue has been with providing faith chaplains for the smaller groups such as Rastafarians and Pagans. The Chaplaincy is working on this.

**5.11** The Transgender group can buy clothing and make up via authorised suppliers. Work is on-going to look at provision of female prisoner packs for new Transgender arrivals at HMP Whatton.

**5.12** The kitchens, as part of the Rehabilitative Culture at HMP Whatton, now offer a speciality menu on the last Friday of the month providing foods for different ethnic and religious groups.

**5.13** Visits are well managed and facilities for family visitors are good. A trial is ongoing looking at virtual visits via a modified tablet computer and virtual visits application.

**5.14** The IMB is very impressed with the many activities (including family days during school holidays) organised by both staff and prisoners.

**5.15** In respect of the prison complaints procedure, the IMB are concerned that complaints are not always being resolved in a timely manner and prisoners regularly tell us that it takes a long time before they get a response to a complaint. Often, complaints are only chased following an application being made to the IMB by a prisoner.

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

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**6.1** The Care and Separation Unit (CSU) has eight cells and the Unit has good facilities with access to an outside exercise yard and a small library. The IMB visits the unit at least once each week and have always found the cell temperatures comfortable. Radios are provided. Prisoners located on the Unit under Rule 45 have access to a television if appropriate. No applications to the IMB, regarding accommodation, have involved the CSU facilities.

**6.2** There has been an increase in the number of prisoners being confined in the CSU during the reporting period. This may be because the prison is now holding prisoners that are in denial and are less compliant with the prison regime. This is also reflected in the increased number of adjudications being heard each day. Since 2013, there has been a 93% increase in the number of adjudications being heard. This has resulted in a 63% increase in the number of days prisoners are being confined in the CSU. The CSU has been nearly fully-occupied since February 2017. Cellular confinement was imposed on 228 occasions following adjudication. No prisoners were confined for an extended period of time (28 days). Occasionally prisoners serve cellular confinement on their wing.

**6.3** The IMB duty team are alerted by telephone of any new arrival and visit new prisoners within the required 72 hours (24 hours, if restraint has been used). There are no constraints preventing us from speaking freely with any prisoner (except when there is only one prison officer on duty when we can only speak to prisoners through their closed doors – see para 6.5). The IMB receive notification of review boards and attend whenever possible. Prisoners removed from their cells requiring restraint are videoed by staff as a record. If available, an IMB member will monitor the removal and then accompany a prisoner under restraint from cell to CSU.

**6.4** A Board member is invited to attend Segregation Review Board meetings. Members of the mental health team attend these meetings. Invariably, the prisoners attend the reviews and participate in the discussions resulting in the Review Board's decision.

**6.5** The IMB has expressed concerns regarding the reduced staffing in the CSU during the afternoons. Staff are frequently being moved from the CSU to other areas of the prison leading to a restricted regime on CSU. We have observed a single prison officer responsible for the CSU during such staffing periods which has necessitated a second officer being called from another wing when any of the CSU cells had to be opened. The implementation of the Regime Management Plan results in prisoners having restricted access to exercise, showers and telephone calls.

**6.6** When a prisoner with an open ACCT document is confined in the CSU, a Defensible Decision form is completed which details the exceptional circumstances for the confinement being authorised. The IMB regularly check these documents when visiting the CSU.

**6.7** IMB members speak to prisoners in their cell accompanied by officers; a room is available for confidential discussion if required. The IMB routinely check documents in the CSU to ensure that daily visits are made by appropriate staff (for example, governor and the healthcare nurse).

**6.8** The Board has been impressed with the way adjudications are used as an opportunity to engage prisoners in reflective discussions to consider how infractions can be avoided in future. The Board believes that this approach contributes to the high standards of dynamic security in the prison. There were 530 proven adjudications for this reporting period; 104 cases were dismissed; 48 cases were 'Not Proceeded With'; 18 cases were referred to the Independent Adjudicator. Prisoners are made aware of the appeal process. The IMB monitors adjudications

and is of the view that governors conduct adjudications in a professional and fair manner. Only four applications to the IMB during the reporting year were related to adjudications.

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

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**7.1** Prison buildings, both residential and classrooms, workshops and offices, are functional and generally fit for purpose. Prisoners have mentioned to Board members that HMP Whatton compares favourably to other prisons. The accommodation wings are generally maintained in a clean and tidy condition by the wing cleaners. The residential accommodation comprises A Wing (constructed 2006), B Wing (constructed during the 1960s when the prison was a Borstal housing Young Offenders) and C Wing (Wings 1 and 2 were constructed in the 1990s and Wing 3 constructed in 2010).

**7.2** The standard of accommodation on A Wing is reasonable. Four of the eight wings have cells with ensuite shower, washbasin and toilet. The remaining A wings have in-cell toilets and shared facilities for showers. Although the A Wings were only constructed 11 years ago, there are latent defects to the brickwork, showers, fixtures and fittings. Caledonian, the primary building contractor, have only agreed to repair the brickwork following the intervention of the Ministry of Justice. The A Wing boilers are coming to the end of their life and 8 have already been replaced. The remaining boilers will need to be replaced soon.

**7.3** The standard of accommodation on B Wing remains a concern to the Board with some areas well below the standard expected of a modern prison. The water pipework is deteriorating and regularly leaks. In his response to last year's report, Mr Rory Stewart MP, Minister of State for Justice, wrote to the IMB Chair, "The latest Estates Investment Proposal development bid to refurbishment to replace B wing's heating pipework and boiler has recently been approved and added to the Ministry of Justice Estates Directive programme for delivery, although the commissioning of the works and estimated date of completion is yet to be confirmed." To date, there has been no progress.

**7.4** The IMB has reported many times previously that we support the recommendation from HMIP that cells in B Wing should be enlarged to enable the toilet to be screened and separated from the sleeping and living area. This year the communal showers are being modified. C Wings 1 and 2 accommodate prisoners of all ages and C3 accommodates older prisoners. C3 has a more relaxed atmosphere and the Board receive many positive comments from C3 residents. The C2 is a temporary wooden building that should be replaced with a permanent structure.

**7.5** TV reception has been a problem this year and this has formed a large part of the verbal complaints made to the Board. This has been addressed with the installation of new equipment in the C Wings. A and B Wings will be upgraded later in 2018 once HMPPS Change Board approval has been received.

**7.6** The roads and pathways around the prison are in a bad state of repair with the surfaces 'breaking-up' thereby causing potential health and safety issues. A capital bid has been repeatedly submitted for remedial works but no funding has been made available.

**7.7** The day-to-day maintenance of the estate is under the national contract with Amey. The maintenance team are understaffed and sometimes struggle to keep up-to-date with routine maintenance whilst they are repairing the prison infrastructure. An increase in staff levels has been agreed and recruitment is underway. Reactive maintenance tasks can remain outstanding for lengthy periods due to delays receiving authorisation from Amey.

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

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**8.1** Mitie Care and Custody Health took over the provision of healthcare services from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust on 1 April 2017. The healthcare centre is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and from 8.00am to 1.30pm on weekends and bank holidays. There is an out-of-hours service at other times. There are no inpatient beds, but there is a palliative care suite in the healthcare centre for end of life care.

**8.2** The Board raised concerns about the award of the prison's healthcare contract to Mitie Care and Custody in our last annual report. Throughout this reporting year healthcare has remained a major concern for the Board. In January 2018 NHS England issued a rectification notice and increased funding to ensure additional nursing and administrative staff could be recruited. At the end of the reporting year this notice was still live.

**8.3** Since the start of this reporting year the Mental Health service has not been adequately staffed, due to the withdrawal of two sub-contractors and failure to recruit qualified mental health practitioners. The post of specialist Intellectual Disability nurse has been vacant since April 2017 and has been covered by an agency nurse without specialist qualification.

**8.4** There have been significant delays in processing referrals for specialist secondary care because doctor's referrals were not being processed in a timely manner. This has resulted in some prisoners not being referred for specialist appointments. At one point, Mitie were nearly six months behind on administrative work.

**8.5** Some specialist nursing clinics had not been held at all, such as the substance misuse, diabetic, tissue viability, sexual health clinics. However, the last two months of the reporting year has shown slight improvement.

**8.6** Some medical rooms cannot be used for clinical examination as they do not have hand washing facilities.

**8.7** Hospital escorts totalled 1,366 in the reporting year and there were 102 bed watches. Given HMP Whatton's ageing population, it can only be anticipated that this will increase. Bed watches provide challenges to staffing levels given the need for officers to be out of the prison and at hospital often resulting in the implementation of the Regime Management Plan.

**8.8** Payments from Mitie to the prison to cover bed watches have been delayed. A number of subcontractors have reported that they have not been paid for their services, with a risk they will withdraw from the service. Both the mental health services and the organisation have been affected by the problems with payments.

**8.9** Healthcare staff have worked hard to deliver a quality service, and we would particularly single out the GPs who receive high praise from prisoners and staff. It is evident from conversations with healthcare that the contract did not adequately take into account the needs of HMP Whatton's population, including a high proportion of older prisoners and those with complex health conditions. This has resulted in a substandard provision of care.

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

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**9.1** The education provided by Milton Keynes College meets prisoners' needs well. Sufficient places are available for all prisoners to engage in purposeful activity, at least on a part time basis. Places are allocated fairly.

**9.2** Each prisoner is assessed on arrival and receives additional support where necessary. Prisoners have praised the learning provision and regularly comment in positive terms to IMB members about individual members of staff. Having observed the range of education on offer the IMB is satisfied that the provision is of high quality and prisoners are engaged and encouraged to achieve. Learning is adapted to meet the needs of all prisoners with learning difficulties, including those who are autistic and prisoners who are deaf.

**9.3** Nationally approved qualifications are available and encouraged, to prepare prisoners for employment on release including qualifications with the Open University.

**9.4** The library is well stocked and well used for study purposes, career information and for information about courses available. It operates a rota system for opening over 6 days as per the service level agreement. The library hosts a variety of support services such as encouragement for lower level readers to broaden their reading experience and story-telling and writing to improve literacy.

**9.5** Staff shortages combined with the ever-increasing demand for hospital escorts and bed watches has resulted in the unscheduled closure of the library and gym facilities. For example, 71 sessions were lost because no supervising prison officer was available. Due to the needs of the older population, significant resources are needed for hospital visits, bed watches and social care.

**9.5** The prison is working to develop partnerships with employers, arts providers and other external bodies for the benefit of prisoners including Geese Theatre and Dance 4. A recent Geese Theatre event was very well received by prisoners and staff.

**9.6** Basic maths and English are embedded in workshops to further promote education and prisoners' prospects on release.

**9.7** The Quality Head of Milton Keynes College recently visited and found the leadership and management of the department to be outstanding, personal development and behaviour management good. The overall quality of provision of education, learning and skills at HMP Whatton remains outstanding.

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

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**10.1** Due to the nature of the offences committed by the prisoners at HMP Whatton their future employment is sometimes limited. However, the prison offers training opportunities and qualifications related to a range of occupations that may be possible for prisoners to undertake on release including horticulture, bricklaying and painting and decorating.

**10.2** The prison offers a wide variety of courses in conjunction with Milton Keynes College enabling prisoners to gain qualification from one of the bodies below:

- City and Guilds
- CSkills
- Guild of Cleaners and Launderers

**10.3** In general workspaces are allocated well and promptly. However, communication between prisoners and staff who allocate work could be improved, particularly where prisoners are awaiting decisions on their work applications. In some instances, the transfer of qualification certificates from other prisons have been delayed or not arrived and so have delayed prisoners beginning work or training.

**10.4** On the whole attendance at work is good and 73% of prisoners who are suitable for work are in full time activity with 9% of prisoners classed as unemployed. The remainder are either retired or undertaking Offending Behaviour Programmes.

**10.5** The prison works hard to ensure prisoners are suitably prepared for release. This work starts up to 12 months before release and representatives from one-to-one maths, Shannon Trust and National Careers Service all have a presence within the prison to assist prisoners moving towards release.

## **11. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION**

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**11.1.** The prison's resettlement strategy is centred on offender management and risk reduction. Often, prisoners arrive at the prison without an up-to-date offender assessment but once addressed, the quality of supervision, sentence planning and risk assessment is good.

**11.2** The Pathways to Reducing Re-offending have recently been reviewed and areas for improvement have been identified in the new prison strategy. The IMB usually attend the bi-monthly Reducing Re-offending meeting where the new strategy is monitored.

**11.3** HMP Whatton is not a designated resettlement prison although approximately 20 prisoners a month are released from the establishment. In order to support the resettlement of prisoners, the Governor uses local funding to commission the services of the Lincolnshire Action Trust to provide finance, benefit and debt advice to prisoners being released. The service provided by the Lincolnshire Action Trust is under pressure because of regular changes of staff.

**11.4** Six months prior to a prisoner's release, their Multiple Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are reassessed by the National Probation Service. Furthermore, they are offered a two-week course in preparation for their release. The course is presented in collaboration with the Geese Theatre, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), National Probation Service, Lincolnshire Action Trust, OMU and, on occasions, ex-prisoners from HMP Whatton. The course is offered in such a way that prisoners are invited to seek advice in their own areas of need to aid their resettlement. The course is well received by the prisoners.

**11.5** An area of concern is that some prisoners are only aware of the address to which they are being released the afternoon prior to the day of their discharge. As a consequence of this, released prisoners cannot be offered a job since they do not know in advance where they will be living. The delays are invariably because the Offender Manager in the Community (The National Probation Service) is unable to find suitable accommodation. Medium risk prisoners are advised to contact their local council and ask for emergency accommodation upon release. Regrettably, this can sometimes result in a released person with a conviction for a sexual offence being housed in inappropriate accommodation.

**11.6** Approximately 25% of prisoners being released from HMP Whatton are retired or disabled and are not generally able to work.

## **Annex A – Work of Board**

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The Board works well as a team, maintains good relations with prisoners and staff, and monitors the establishment effectively. The board attends staff and prisoner-led meetings where appropriate throughout the prison. Administrative services for the board are working effectively with an experienced and capable member of staff who is well respected across the prison undertaking administration duties. The Board had a recruitment campaign during the reporting year and 3 new members were appointed. The Board has an active Board Development Officer who encourages members to get involved with national, local and in-house training opportunities.

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>		
	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10	11
Total number of visits to the Establishment	391	397
Total number of applications received	180	233

## Annex B - Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	36	16
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	26	4
C	Equality	0	7
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	10	17
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	15	15
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	9	5
F	Food and kitchens	4	4
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	10	15
H 1	Property within this establishment	21	8
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	13	25
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	15	18
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	18	9
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	31	4
K	Transfers	19	2
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>180</b>