



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

at

**HMP Dartmoor**

for reporting Year  
(1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018)

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*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

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# 1 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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2.1 This year has been a period of change for HMP Dartmoor, and also one of development. By the end of December 2017 the prison saw the arrival of the promised newly trained officers on the wings. The boost to staffing numbers has helped to keep wings open to a certain extent, however a serious amount of training had to be undertaken by all officers as the new Offender Management in Custody initiative being introduced across the prison estate, was also in HMP Dartmoor. This was a major piece of work involving officers being trained to work in conjunction with the Offender Management Unit (OMU) to take the role of key workers – the first point of regular contact between the prisoner, his Prison Offender Manager (POM) and his Community Offender Manager (COM). All operational officers have now been trained, and the key worker initiative has started on East Tor and Down Tor, with full time officers covering six prisoners each. The Board welcomes this important development and the benefits it should bring to officer/prisoner communication and understanding. (7.8; 11.2; 11.3)

2.2 The Board has been concerned at the continuing difficulties in securing places for prisoners to transfer to resettlement prisons, in order to complete courses required on their sentence plans, and to have access to a fully funded package of pre-release support and guidance. The pressure on the prison estate is such that requests for places result in many refusals. Those prisoners awarded Category D status also face a very long wait for a place in a Category D prison, and Observation, Classification and Allocation (OCA), the department responsible for securing placements in other prisons, are having to seek placements further and further afield. Under these circumstances it is inevitable that a significant number of prisoners are still released directly from HMP Dartmoor. (11.1; 11.6)

2.3 The Board notes the continuation this year of the high level of self-harm incidents, above both the projected number and the national level. Several serious attempts during the year were only intercepted by the very prompt and vigilant actions of experienced officers. The Board recognises what difficult and complex work is involved in anticipating, preventing and dealing with such incidents and would like to commend the multi-disciplinary approach adopted by the prison by which self-harming prisoners are supported. In addition, the Board commends the actions of prison management in creating a single manager in charge of all Assessment, Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) documents, to ensure a regular and unvarying response. This has already resulted in a reduction of prisoners on ACCTs. (4.4)

2.4 Other positive developments of particular note are the number of projects in the prison carried out in collaboration with outside agencies: The Prison Art Exchange with an established local artist, the End Of Life Care project between nursing staff and St Luke's Hospice, the pilot scheme with the Justice Solutions agency for an enhanced working group to carry out repairs, the collaboration between professional musicians and prisoners (The Prison Choir Project) to produce opera, and the further development of the conflict resolution work (Dialogue Road Mapping) supported by the Centre for Peaceful Solutions. These initiatives help create a more enabling environment, and ultimately a safer prison. (4.3; 5.2; 8.8; 10.7).

Areas of concern monitored by the Board:

- As reported last year the continuing difficulties experienced in moving prisoners to resettlement prisons or to the Category D estate. (11.1; 11.6)
- The present high level of self-harm. (4.4)
- The increase in the use of force. (4.5)
- The inconsistent use of body worn video cameras (BWVC). (4.2)

- Prisoner applications to the IMB concerning staff/prisoner issues including bullying and under-use of the prison complaints system on this matter by prisoners. (4.1)
- The continuing access to and use of psychoactive substances by prisoners. (6.3; 8.5)
- The reasons why prisoners may not be attending work or education: difficulty recruiting tutors or covering their absences, job vacancies do not always match the unemployed population and the continuing severe lack of capital investment and resources. (9.4; 10.5; 10.6)
- The high number of hospital appointments and bed watches required by the elderly population of the prison, which takes the accompanying officers away from the wings and causes regime restrictions. (8.4)
- The time and difficulty being incurred to replace broken washing machines on the wings. (7.4)
- As reported last year, the continuing unacceptable delays in delivery or loss of property during transfers. (7.9)
- Continuing lack of capital investment in the buildings. (5.2; 7.1; 10.5)

## **Main judgements**

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

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Overall prisoners are treated with dignity and respected as individuals.

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

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The prison has a positive emphasis on humane treatment and developments this year, the roll out of key worker duties and the expansion of the conflict resolution work, should support this. The concerns at the beginning of our reporting year, concerning the frequently restricted regime, have been alleviated by the arrival of newly trained staff.

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

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Within the limitations of a training prison staff try very hard to give prisoners adequate preparation for release, but the full complement of programmes available in resettlement prisons is not available and it is not the remit of a training prison to do this. The Board is concerned that funding for what provision is available has to be found from other areas of the budget.

## **Main Areas for Development**

### **TO THE MINISTER**

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- (1) Will the Minister ensure that enough resettlement places are made available to training prisons such as HMP Dartmoor? (11.1; 11.6)
- (2) Will the Minister look at the provision of Category D prisons to ensure movement across the estate? (11.6)
- (3) Does the Minister have plans to improve the pathways to release for those prisoners trapped in the now discontinued Indefinite Sentence for Public Protection system? (11.6)

## **TO THE PRISON SERVICE**

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- (1) What changes does HMPPS intend to make to ensure that every prisoner has funded access to the full range of resettlement provision? (11.1; 11.6)
- (2) Does HMPPS have any research under way to assess the short and long term effects of psychoactive substances on prisoners and staff? (6.3; 8.5)

## **TO THE GOVERNOR**

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- (1) What further measures are envisaged to reduce the level of self harm in the prison at the moment? (4.4)
- (2) How will the Governor assess the impact on the prisoners and their families of the new visiting hours timetable? (7.10)

## **Improvements**

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The Board welcomes the improvements to the provision of social care for those identified on Fox Tor as in need, however as stated last year, capital investment is required to upgrade this wing to a fully functioning social care wing. (5.6)

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

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3.1 HMP Dartmoor is a Category C training prison for up to 640 adult male prisoners. The prison is situated in Princetown on the western edge of Dartmoor National Park, eight miles from Tavistock and sixteen miles from Plymouth (the nearest main-line railway station). Access is difficult with very limited public transport. The local environment is harsh and can be particularly bleak in the winter months. The prison comprises six residential wings (known in HMP Dartmoor as tors), a care and separation unit (CSU), healthcare suite, chapel and education facilities and workshops. In addition, there is a large gymnasium, a well-equipped kitchen and other facilities to support the life of the prison. A fully-integrated smoke-free regime is in operation: all wings are integrated and accommodate main and vulnerable prisoners or sex offenders. The prison and prisoners are supported by contractors and charities, either working in the prison or visiting on a regular basis.

3.2 The buildings are leased from the Duchy of Cornwall and the Prison Service is responsible for their upkeep. Many of them are old and prone to damp. There are, however, very well-maintained and attractive garden areas. The prison is one of the major employers in the town alongside agriculture, tourism and a small brewery. Employment opportunities in the local area for prisoners on release are, however, limited.

## 4. SAFETY

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4.1 When compared with the other three prisons in the South West estate, Dartmoor continues to have by far the lowest number of recorded assaults both prisoner on prisoner and prisoner on staff. For example, in April, the middle of the recording year, Dartmoor recorded two assaults out of a total of 65 in the cluster. However, the Board is concerned that the highest number of applications it received from prisoners this year related to the broad section of staff/prisoner issues including bullying. 39 such applications to the IMB were received from prisoners this reporting year, a mixture of complaints against other prisoners or staff. On examination 20 of these came from two prisoners and only two alleged assault by other prisoners and two alleged assault by staff. When dealing with these applications it became clear that prisoners were reluctant to officially record alleged incidents, often fearing what they believed would be repercussions. The Board has concerns that there may be under-reporting of such incidents by prisoners. This reporting year 18 complaints about staff have been received and dealt with by the prison, mainly from prisoners who have been restrained and removed to the care and separation unit (CSU). Senior management have provided extra training and this has resulted in a reduction of use of force. The development of the key worker role, now started in East and Down Tor, should develop, improve and enhance the relationships between officers and prisoners. The Board will monitor this closely.

4.2 The Board welcomes the introduction of body worn video cameras (BWVC) as part of the prison policy for improving safety for both prisoners and staff. This has been used very effectively to show prisoners the extent of the damage caused to them by using psychoactive substances. However the Board has been alerted by prisoners, and senior management were also aware, that initially some staff were not making full use of the new BWVCs when dealing with confrontational incidents. One incident, which involved a prisoner and a number of staff, was not recorded, despite the fact that several of the staff had adequate time to switch their cameras on. Ongoing training has been made available to all staff to ensure use of BWVCs in all appropriate situations. A number of prisoners have commented to the Board that CCTV cameras on all the wings would enhance the safety of themselves, officers and visitors.

4.3 The Board is very conscious of the excellent support mechanisms the prison has in place to assist prisoners who are in regular or urgent distress. Samaritans, Listeners, Insiders, the Mental Health Craft sessions and distraction kits for those on Basic or self-isolating, all help to make the prison a safer and more supportive institution. A mixed group of prisoners (those on ACCTs, those facing several adjudications, transgender prisoners and others with particular needs) are referred to The Prison Art Exchange, a fortnightly therapeutic group working with a practising artist from the community. This group started in January and has now secured lottery funding to enable it to continue. Of particular note is the expansion of the innovative conflict resolution programme Dialogue Road Mapping, now based in East Tor, supported by senior staff and the lead chaplain, overseen by trained officers and facilitated by trained prisoners.

4.4 Safety issues are monitored by the prison through regular Safer Custody and Complex Needs meetings. Both are well attended and chaired effectively with prisoner representatives attending part of the latter meeting. The number of self-harm incidents has been running at a higher level than in 2017. In August the figure stood at 627 incidents against a projected figure of 405 year to date. Senior management is concerned that this is above the national level and the Board commends the action that is being taken to tackle the issue. The appointment in June of a single point ACCT case manager is an attempt to reduce self-harm and standardise the effective use of ACCT documents. The Board will monitor this strategy and early signs are that since June there has been a significant reduction of open ACCTs, but self-harm incidents remain worryingly high.

4.5 The Board is concerned by the increase in the use of force over the last 12 months. The average use of force incidents recorded per month in the five months April to August 2017 was 8.2 per month, but this had risen to 14.8 per month one year later in the period April to August 2018. Most (77%) are categorised by the prison's own statistics as being for non-compliance or threatening behaviour. Senior management have increased the use of force meetings to monthly, introduced debriefing procedures for prisoners and revisited de-escalation techniques with staff.

4.6 The Board is concerned that prompt action to contact local police by the prison has not always been forthcoming when a prisoner has reported an assault, nor has there always been a timely response by the police.

4.7 The Board notes that there have been two deaths in custody during the year, both from natural causes.

## 5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

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5.1 HMP Dartmoor takes equality and fairness very seriously and it is clear that fairness is at the forefront of concern to the prison management. The prison operates an effective system of prisoner representatives; minority groups are recognised and considered. Prisoners with a learning disability are supported by a learning disability nurse, who monitors their progress. The needs of the transgender group are catered for and a member of the Senior Management Team is responsible for each individual. A small number of the traveller community are also present in the prison population and have their own traveller representative. Any prisoners with literacy difficulties are offered education classes; however staff recognise that support is needed to break down entrenched barriers to learning.

5.2 The Chaplaincy provides multi-faith support and inclusion for all religious beliefs. The result of an HMIP review during the year rated the chaplaincy service as 'excellent'. There is still a need for more input from an imam, as the recent appointee has taken a position elsewhere. Disabled access to the chapel remains a problem and a capital bid has been submitted to change the entrance and build a slope. Spiritual needs for anyone who cannot access the chapel can be met by a minister visiting the wing. Once again the Board commends the Chaplaincy and officers who supported the collaboration between prisoners and professional musicians (The Prison Choir Project) to produce this year's musical performance, 'West Side Story'.

5.3 The retired and infirm have their own work area run by a prison officer - The Diversity Centre - where they can engage in a number of activities in a more age-appropriate environment. Activities include packing of breakfasts, sorting newspapers and mending and preparing products for various charities and the Prison Museum. The Board has been concerned that as this is the only workshop run by an officer, during regime restrictions the facility has to close.

5.4 The Board has been concerned that the over 50s group has been struggling to be effective. Prison managers had not been attending meetings until the Board raised the issue during the year. Recent changes in prisoner personnel have left the Chair as the sole member of the committee.

5.5 The Board was concerned following prisoner complaints that some frail or disabled prisoners had been handcuffed unnecessarily during hospital appointments. Following representations made, the Security Department has reviewed this practice to avoid recurrence where possible.

5.6 Prisoners with mobility problems are located on the ground floors of wings, many of them on Fox Tor which houses the most frail and those in need of social care. However none of the cell doors in HMP Dartmoor are wide enough for wheelchair access. The Board regrets that the ramp manufactured to enable the men on Fox Tor to access the exercise yard still has to be fitted.

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

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6.1 The Board has noted that CSU staff and duty governors are supportive towards the needs of prisoners located in the unit. The majority of prisoners comment that they are treated fairly and with respect by the officers and have no complaints. The CSU is run efficiently and access to the relevant paperwork is always easily available.

6.2 Again, this year there have been staff changes, and new staff have now completed the relevant training to undertake the duties necessary at adjudications, GOoD boards and ACCT reviews, including the production of video evidence.

6.3 Many prisoners in the CSU are there because of psychoactive drug (Spice) related offences, some of which are dealt with by the independent adjudicator (IA). The IA has commented that the support from staff at Dartmoor is exceptional and that the administration is effective. Other prisoners are relieved to be in CSU for their own safety because of debt relating to drugs, again predominantly Spice. The Board welcomes the use of deferred sentencing to provide incentives to a prisoner to change track.

6.4 During the IMB year one prisoner was held in the CSU beyond the 42-day period requiring regional authorisation for segregation to continue. This was managed professionally, including the exit strategy and the completion of the relevant authorisation paperwork but the Board was still concerned at the length of the prisoner's stay in the CSU. There have been a few very short dirty protests in the year, and these have been effectively dealt with. Most were over within hours. The IMB have also observed several forced cell removals and a serious incident involving a rooftop protest where the Tornado team were called, and the prisoners escorted to the CSU. In all of these monitored cases BWVCs and a handheld video camera were used and the Board was able to conclude that all were handled professionally and humanely.

6.5 The CSU is always kept clean, tidy and well decorated.

## 7. ACCOMMODATION

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7.1 The Board is pleased to note the cleanliness and tidiness of HMP Dartmoor; there have been very few applications to the IMB concerning the fabric of the accommodation. Most communal areas are decorated and maintained to a reasonable standard. The residential wings are well maintained despite the challenges of age and location. Landings are adequately decorated. Cell accommodation is fit for purpose, but some cells are rather shabby in appearance and furnishing. Two cells are out of use due to ingress of water. A small number of cells have peeling plaster and damaged floors. Prisoners have access to cleaning materials, clothing and bedding. Heating is effective, but the granite walls take time to heat up and cool down causing some complaints. Severe snow in February and March caused problems with heating and persistent leaks have been a feature all year in rainy weather, particularly in the corridor outside Down Tor and the laundry. On occasions high winds and rain have caused leaks between Fox and Granite Tors.

7.2 External areas are well maintained and attractive. The gardens are well-stocked and kept at a high standard and poly tunnels are well-tended and provide fresh vegetables for the kitchen. The skills and dedication of those prisoners tending the outside areas, and their supervisors are to be commended.

7.3 During the summer months, there was an infestation of rats on the wings, which caused concern, and, in one incident, a prisoner was bitten. The issue was dealt with swiftly by a pest control company.

7.4 The laundry facilities have caused significant concern to the IMB during this year. The main laundry had trouble with its steam boiler and laundry was sent to another prison. The Board commends staff in the laundry for managing a difficult situation. The machines on the wings for prisoner use have repeatedly broken down and several have been out of service for many months. Moves to replace them started in June 2018 and despite many deadlines for new machines being given to prisoners, prison management and the IMB, they have yet to be installed. The Board has received constant complaints about this, as have senior management. The patience shown by prisoners has been commendable.

7.5 Board members observe serveries weekly and, on occasion, taste the food on offer. There are frequent positive comments from prisoners regarding the quality of meals, portion size and variety of choice. Written comments in food comments books on each wing generally reflect this positive view. Faith requirements, food allergies, medical needs and lifestyle choices are all catered for.

7.6 The kitchen is visited weekly by Board members. The kitchen suffered from shortages of prison workers in the early part of the year due to the stringent and lengthy security screenings required. There have been problems with equipment failure with some prolonged periods of waiting for repairs, parts and replacements. Despite these difficulties the Board commends the quality of the service provided within a very limited budget. The Board welcomes the addition of CCTV in the kitchen.

7.8 The regime limitations raised by the IMB in last year's report have been reduced with the arrival of new staff and the re-profiling of the number of bed-watches. Once all required training is completed, the Board believes that improvements will be maintained.

7.9 The loss of prisoners' personal property continues to be a significant issue particularly during transfers from other establishments, when not all property travels with the prisoner. Other establishments are often slow to respond to requests for information.

7.10 The number of applications to the Board concerning post, visits, phone calls and public protection restrictions has reduced this year from 26 to 18. Towards the end of this reporting

year, the Board was made aware of imminent changes to two of these services. Delivery of post to the prison on Saturdays will cease and recommence on Mondays. Visits will be rescheduled to Friday afternoon and Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. Concerns have been raised to the IMB, by prisoners, about these changes. Both of these new arrangements will be reviewed in three months by senior management and prisoner forum. The Board is concerned that very little notice was given to prisoners, particularly of the change to visits, and the prison website still has the previous visiting times displayed.

7.11 Relationships between officers and prisoners are positive on wings where there is stability of staff. The Board acknowledges that it is more difficult when staff are moved to unfamiliar wings through staff shortages. The introduction of the new Offender Management in Custody key-worker arrangements, at present started in East Tor and Down Tor, should further enhance the relationship between officers and prisoners.

## 8. HEALTHCARE

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8.1 The Board is pleased to report that prisoners tell us that the healthcare provided to them by Care UK is generally of good quality and provided in a timely manner. Where issues occur, such as waiting lists (e.g. optician) growing unacceptably long, management have responded effectively by increasing service provision or making other service changes such as triaging access. Service management is coordinated with the prison through a well-run Healthcare Board chaired by the Governor or Deputy Governor and attended by the healthcare management.

8.2 During the year clinical and management processes have continued to bed down and operate well under Care UK management. New clinical staff have been recruited significantly bolstering the team. Mental health services have been strengthened and a consultant psychiatrist from Derriford visits each week. A specialist audiologist now attends on a monthly basis and the provision of visiting optician services has been doubled to two days each month. Ultrasound is now available as an outpatient service within the prison. Dental services, which were raised as an issue last year, are now being provided effectively by Time for Teeth with all prisoners being seen within the Care UK target of 6 weeks.

8.3 Processes are now generally reported to be mature and working well with a few areas identified by Healthcare that require further work. These include building on the existing Patient Forum, continuing the focus on clinical supervision and continuing the roll out of a holistic well-being wheel for prisoners. The two Requirement Notices previously raised by the Care and Quality Commission (CQC) last year have both been lifted following a re-inspection.

8.4 Once again, the Board reports that the increasing number of elderly prisoners with complex health problems causes difficulties for Healthcare and for the prison. The prison offers support by providing escorts to take prisoners to hospital appointments. Recently there has been an increase from 9 to 15 in the number of escorts profiled each week which means that Healthcare fund the extra escorts; however no additional prison staff resources have been added so staff are still being taken from the wings. There are prisoners requiring chemotherapy and radiology several times a week in hospital and in some months the number of escorts required is vastly over profile. Bed watches for hospital stays are also increasing. The Board regrets that this still sometimes result in regime loss, taking prison staff from other areas such as wings.

8.5 The prison has continued to have an influx of psychoactive substances (Spice) during the year. Prison management are to be commended for trying to ensure that recording processes at Dartmoor are robust and complete to protect staff and prisoners; all those exposed to the fumes are documented. Prison management consider that since the long-term impact of Spice is as yet unknown, and long-term identification of people affected is vital. In terms of broader controlled drug prescriptions, Substance Misuse Service (SMS) prescription levels are up from 21 prisoners a year ago to 46 now, the increase being due to the number of prisoners arriving who are already on a prescription or needing one.

8.6 Priorities have been set for future healthcare service provision development, including a new dementia care path, fully rolling out the use of recently installed ECG and cholesterol measuring equipment and the roll out of NHS well-being checks to all prisoners aged 35-74 (a broader range than available outside of prison). A new Medicines Management Group at prison cluster level has been established.

8.7 The Board welcomes the establishment of a new governance meeting for social care this year. Five prisoners are currently positively assessed as requiring social care and a further 36 currently have buddying support. The Board considers that buddying support works well within the prison and this is evidenced through our discussions with supported prisoners. An

End of Life Care Project between the Healthcare nursing staff and St Luke's Hospice in Plymouth, resulted in a Burdett Nursing Award.

## 9. EDUCATION

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9.1 Although detailed monitoring of actual teaching quality by the Board is inevitably limited, the overall impression given by Weston College staff on rota visits throughout the year is favourable, especially compared with an earlier provider. Classrooms appear busy, engaged places with effective work in progress.

9.2 The team, and particularly the Head of Learning and Skills, work hard to maximise learning opportunities and regular Quality Improvement Group meetings are held. A system is in place to optimise attendance, and statistics achieved would seem to suggest that this is good. Rota reports have again recorded throughout the reporting year the welcome that rota visitors have received from staff and prisoners alike and the obvious pride some prisoners have felt in speaking about their achievements. Such successes have been enhanced by the prison from time to time by hosting family days when relatives have been invited into the prison to celebrate the achievements and progress made by prisoners.

9.3 The range of courses was found to be good in the recent Ofsted inspection, and the College initiated extra mathematics and English classes because it realised that prisoners found these courses most useful. Ofsted awarded a “good” as the outcome of their inspection.

9.4 Effective use is made of peer mentors within classrooms and in the education unit generally, but the Board still notes that Friday afternoons have remained as tutor preparation and marking time. Therefore, all Friday afternoons were still off limits for teaching during this reporting period, and the Board has noticed that once again during periods of tutor absence it has been difficult to find temporary replacement tutors or instructors.

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

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10.1 Board members continue to receive positive comments from prisoners on the workshops and vocational training activities in the prison run by Weston College and Prison Associates.

10.2 The gardens workforce was once again runner-up (out of some 130 entrants) in the competition for the Windlesham Trophy for the best prison garden. The workers produce 90% of the plants used in the prison gardens and 45 or more prisoners are employed.

10.3 The textiles workshop for the second year running was reported as the top performing workshop across all prisons, producing 3,800 items per quarter. A new wood-working workshop also began this year, making and selling furniture made from recycled scaffolding.

10.4 The Board observes the very strong work ethic in HMP Dartmoor. The high level of commitment of both staff and prisoners to industries is commendable. Attendance in industries activities was measured at 94% in July 2018 against a target of 80%.

10.5 Broader employment opportunities within the prison are however limited by a number of factors. Firstly, new initiatives are hampered by the severe lack of capital investment in the buildings. Budgetary constraints and lack of resources hold back development. Not all vacancies are suitable for the unemployed population. In July there were 62 unemployed prisoners, almost 10% of the prison population (this figure excludes retirees and long-term sick), and 27 vacancies.

10.6 Staff shortages and consequent lock-ups of prisoners have contributed to the challenges of keeping prisoners usefully occupied. In addition, the prison has again experienced difficulty in recruiting instructors. The much-valued Braille workshop has operated for some months without a full-time instructor.

10.7 The Shaw Trust continue their valuable work in encouraging those “not actively seeking work” into employment. In addition, the prison has announced a plan to form a General Facilities Services Limited (GFSL) working party as a pilot scheme. GFSL will have money to fund ten prisoners, who must be enhanced and have either graduated from education and vocational skills, or hold a bona fide qualification already. The plan is for the working group to undertake painting and decorating, plumbing and cell repairs while building a portfolio for a level three qualification. They would then be on a Justice Solutions agency’s books on release.

## **11. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATIONS**

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11.1 HMP Dartmoor is not a resettlement prison and does not receive a separate budget for resettlement activities. The Board notes with concern that more than 220 prisoners were released directly from HMP Dartmoor over the last reporting year. The Board commends the management for providing some limited resettlement services without centrally allocated funding.

11.2 The Offender Management Unit (OMU) has undergone considerable change in the past year. The Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) initiative has been energetically driven through by senior managers in the prison, and the Board commends the efforts made to ensure its timely completion. It should significantly improve the offender management support provided to individual prisoners.

11.3 All uniformed staff have been trained in the theory and skills of Five-Minute Intervention (FMI), undertaken their own online training and completed two days with external providers. This preparatory work is to equip the staff with the skills needed to be individual key workers, working in conjunction with the prison offender managers (POMS). Wing officers have welcomed this as an opportunity to develop their role. The first group of key workers started their work at the end of this reporting year in East Tor where the Dialogue Road Mapping initiative is also situated. The key worker scheme will be rolled out across all the wings, and the IMB will monitor this development.

11.4 The Board welcomes the introduction of the comprehensive planning document produced for every prisoner six months before their release date. This document covers all aspects of a prisoner's life and networks: family/friends, addresses, possible employment, qualifications, disability, health, dependency, faith issues and licence requirements. This document generates an action plan and this has ensured good communication in the effective preparation for movement and release of prisoners.

11.5 Board members have attended the monthly resettlement case conference where the planning for resettlement of the highest risk prisoners is discussed. This meeting is well attended by the senior probation officer, offender managers, and representatives from activities, employment services (Catch 22), substance misuse services (SMS) and the department dealing with transfer requests, observation, classification and allocation (OCA). The offender manager in the community (COM) is also contacted and asked to send a contribution. The Board has been impressed by the level of detailed care taken at these meetings.

11.6 OCA has the task of moving prisoners to appropriate prisons where final preparations for release can take place. It is evident that this is an extremely frustrating task as requests result in many refusals; as described above, many prisoners are still released directly from HMP Dartmoor due to lack of appropriate resettlement places. There are 18 Category D prisoners also facing a long wait to be moved to a facility designated as appropriate in their sentence plans. There are also 18 indefinite sentence for public protection (IPP) prisoners in HMP Dartmoor, all well over their tariff.

11.7 To ensure that prisoners leaving directly from HMP Dartmoor have advice and guidance, the Education department offers a resettlement course 'Moving On' with inputs and advice from Job Centre Plus, the Department of Work and Pensions and the Citizens Advice Bureau, including information on finance and housing. All prisoners are helped to set up a bank account and are taught IT skills six weeks before they leave. Ten to twelve prisoners are on each course

and it is estimated that 108 places can be found each year, although no central funding is provided specifically for these tasks. The cost has to be found from other areas of the budget. Prisoners who have attended the "Moving On" course have said they found it 'useful' to 'very useful'.

11.8 The Board is aware that the OMU has had to work under great pressure this year as they have been finishing off the previous system of offender supervision and concurrently bringing in the new offender management system. The backlog of incomplete offender assessment systems (OASYS) which had been a problem for some time, is now being cleared by overtime, and this situation should not arise under the new system.

## **Appendix 1 - Work of the IMB**

A.1 The Board members have worked hard to complete all the requirements of an Independent Monitoring Board this year. Board duties have continued to be split between rota visits and addressing applications from prisoners on a weekly basis. As Board members have been depleted, at present the Board works in teams of two: one Board member being assigned to rota visits each week, a second available to process applications. Every effort has been made to provide a weekly IMB induction for prisoners newly arrived at HMP Dartmoor.

A.2 Each Board member has had an area of special interest (ASI) and quarterly specialist reports have been discussed at monthly Board meetings. ASI monitoring has involved observing a number of prison meetings including: the Complex Needs Group; the Safer Custody Group; OMiC meetings; the Quality Improvements Group; the Segregation Monitoring and Review Group; The Resettlement Case Conference; the Healthcare Monitoring Board; the Resettlement and Care of Older Prisoners Group (RECOOP); the Over 50s Group; and the Reducing Reoffending Committee. In addition, individual discussions have taken place with the Governor and the management leads for specific areas. The Board has been represented at the Area IMB Chairs' meeting.

A.3 Issues of concern have been raised with the Governor through rota reports and directly at the Chair's monthly meeting with her. The Governor, or her deputy, has also attended the IMB monthly Board meetings for a dedicated agenda item and she/he has continued to be open and frank in addressing the Board's concerns.

A.4 Board members have attended most segregation reviews. Less regularly, Board members have attended adjudications and ACCT reviews. There has been one call-out for a serious rooftop incident. There were two deaths in custody by natural causes.

A.5 Maintaining Board numbers has continued to be a challenge. Developing a Board that is truly representative of the community continues to prove elusive; however the average age of the Board has reduced. Following a recruitment campaign some months ago five new members have been recommended for appointment, three of whom have commenced their monitoring role.

A.6 A breakdown of applications and Board statistics can be seen below:

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	14
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Total number of visits to the establishment	455
Total number of segregation reviews attended	73

## Appendix 2 - Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	16	6
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	7	2
C	Equality	2	3
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	11	15
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	18	26
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	16	4
F	Food and kitchens	2	4
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	24	20
H 1	Property within this establishment	10	23
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	35	32
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	6	9
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorization	26	33
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	39	31
K	Transfers	4	10
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	216	233