



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

at

**HMP WAKEFIELD**

for reporting Year

**1 May 2017 – 30 April 2018**

**Published**  
**January 2019**



*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

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### 1 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent board (hereafter referred to as “The 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:

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 1.3 **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 INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the evidence base underpinning our judgments on the treatment of prisoners held in custody at HMP Wakefield, and the concerns of staff. Continuous monitoring, in contrast to episodic inspection (which is the responsibility of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons), enables the board to take a unique view of the impact of the custodial environment on prisoners, staff and visitors. It is our overall conclusion that HMP Wakefield continues to provide a regime that is just, consistent and inclusive despite the ever-present and well-documented pressures that surround Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service.

#### 2.2 MAIN JUDGEMENTS

##### 2.2.1 Are prisoners treated fairly?

Yes. The board remains satisfied that HMP Wakefield offers a regime that is consistent with national and locally established principles in ways that are fair and just. In arriving at our judgement, we have drawn on an evidence base that includes, inter alia, continuous monitoring observations of prisoners and staff through our weekly rota visits, attendance at bi-weekly Prison Rule 45 reviews, local management committees, prisoner representation bodies, and in dealing with specific prisoner applications to the board including those received under confidential access to the chairperson of the board.

We note a negligible increase in the number of applications received by the board on matters relating to internal prison discipline procedures. The board is invited to attend the adjudication standardisation meetings and remains satisfied that procedures are, on the whole, working well.

Whilst the board is satisfied that the majority of prisoners are treated fairly, there is evidence to suggest that some prisoners, by reason of their mental or physical health, may

be disadvantaged in relation to their specific needs and the Board believes that urgent action by Ministers is required (see 7.2)

### 2.2.2 Are prisoners treated humanely?

Yes. In arriving at our judgment, the board is mindful of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (more commonly known as ‘The Mandela Rules’) and the requirement that *‘all prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings’* and that no prisoner should be subject to *‘inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment’*. We are also attentive to the necessity for *‘the safety and security of prisoners, staff, service providers and visitors [to] be ensured at all times.’*

During the reporting period, HMP Wakefield’s Close Supervision Centre (CSC) was awarded with *‘Enabling Environment’* accreditation by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Prisoners held in the CSC (under Prison Rule 46) are ‘centrally managed’ in a highly structured environment that reflects the risks they pose to staff and other prisoners. The prison should be congratulated on this accreditation and its continuing work to offer progression opportunities to CSC prisoners within the constraints of what is inevitably a highly restrictive regime.

Prisoners held on Prison Rule 45 (Good Order and Discipline), 53 (Pending Adjudication) and 55 (Governors’ Punishments) usually reside in the segregation unit and are subject to a similarly restrictive regime. The board remains troubled by the prolonged segregation of a number of prisoners presenting with complex and highly unpredictable behaviours. During the reporting period, the segregation unit has operated at or near maximum capacity; staff work diligently and empathetically to deliver a consistent regime in the face of the frequent disruptions created by disorderly and sometimes extremely violent prisoners. Our monitoring observations and conversations with prisoners and operational staff during weekday and weekend visits have satisfied us that prisoners are treated with patience, dignity and humanity despite the very real risks that they present to the good order and discipline of the prison.

Very occasionally, the use of special accommodation (in either a furnished or unfurnished cell) is sanctioned for short periods of time as a means of de-escalation in situations where prisoners exhibit serious or extreme violence towards staff or other prisoners. The board is, without exception, notified of the use of special accommodation (as per the requirements of Prison Service Order 1700) and will visit the prisoner during the period of confinement where it is possible to do so.

The main residential areas of HMP Wakefield are usually calm and orderly; prisoners generally express a perception of feeling safe and reasonably empowered to engage with a full regime. Our previous annual reports have identified this strength of HMP Wakefield; it is arguably a benefit of a relatively static population of prisoners and the sense of community that this brings (see Fig. 1). However, the Board notes a two-fold increase in applications received in relation to allegations of bullying (see p18). Additionally, we restate the concerns of the 2016-17 and 2015-16 annual reports, about the complex needs of an increasingly ageing population at Wakefield. These prisoners, particularly those with mobility impairment, require more active support. We recognise that their issues are being raised and tackled through the appropriate management systems, most notably the Prisoner Equality and Action Group (PEAG). The board also continues to express its concerns that lack of purposeful work, when for a variety of reasons some workshops have not been able to function to full capacity, could harm the future resettlement pathways of prisoners when leaving Wakefield.

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

Prisoners are very rarely discharged from custody at HMP Wakefield (see 11.2). The prison continues to remain focused on i) achieving positive adaptations to a long sentence and by interventions seeking to achieve acknowledgement of serious (often sexual) offences, ii) addressing the risks of future offending and iii) encouraging prisoners to progress through re-categorisation to lower categories of risk, and by enabling their transfer, to continue their rehabilitation in other prisons. This approach is supported by the 'Enabling Environment' underpinned by three core principles of i) conditions of success, ii) rehabilitative culture and iii) strategy of choices. The board remains impressed by the application of this approach and the willingness of staff and prisoners to engage with this important initiative.

## 2.3 MAIN AREAS for DEVELOPMENT

### 2.3.1 To the Minister

The expeditious transfer of prisoners to appropriate mental health accommodation who present with serious acute mental health conditions is a matter of **extreme urgency**. The board are particularly exercised by the detrimental impact of prolonged segregation on prisoners and the operational staff charged with their day-to-day safe custody. Section 47, 1(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended in 2007 specifies the requirement for treatment to be available before the Secretary of State can make a direction under the Act. The acute lack of available treatment and/or delays arising from the evidently complicated multi-disciplinary decision-making process often places operational staff at Wakefield in the pernicious position of providing care that they have received little, if any, formal training in.

We continue to observe the deeply worrying consequences of serious 'prisoner-on-staff' and 'prisoner-on-prisoner' assaults. We continue to monitor trends in use of force and recorded acts of violence at Wakefield and feel it is necessary to remind the Minister that prison staff should not expect to become normalised to the threat of violence in their workplace.. This equally applies to education, healthcare, and other contracted staff working with prisoners.

### 2.3.2 To HM Prison and Probation Service

The board continues to deal with applications related to lost property during transfers. This is without doubt a systemic problem, rather than an idiosyncrasy of the management systems at Wakefield. Whilst the board is not privy to the overall costs of litigation arising from the loss of prisoner property, we are aware of the time that Wakefield staff and members of this board expend on dealing with property related applications and complaints.

A number of officers at Wakefield have reported feeling 'undervalued' as civil servants and have evidenced this by highlighting the lack of appropriate training and development opportunities available through 'civil service learning'. We urge the Cabinet Office and HMPPS to investigate possible remedies. The current HMPSS recruitment exercise offers a unique opportunity to improve the professional development opportunities for all HMPSS staff, particularly those who are new to the service and inexperienced in the very important skills of 'jail-craft'.

Board members regularly receive positive comments from prisoners on their perceptions of life in Wakefield. Our understanding, gleaned from published Ministry of Justice data for 2016/17, suggests that Wakefield is able to deliver a humane, fair and reliable regime at a significantly lower cost per prisoner place when benchmarked against the 'dispersal group' of prisons with CSC provision (HMPs Frankland, Full Sutton, Long Lartin, Whitemoor and Wakefield). The data reveals that Wakefield is 18% lower than the second lowest-cost establishment and 62% lower than the most expensive establishment. Whilst recognising that no one prison is the same, the obvious corollary is to recommend a 'what-works' exercise to explore how best practices at Wakefield may benefit the wider estate.

### **2.3.3 To the Governor**

The relationship between prisoners and prison officers is absolutely fundamental to a safe, decent and reliable regime. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by Wakefield officers to engage proactively with the 'key worker' scheme. During our monitoring, we have become aware that operational demands can sometimes impact on the time available to undertake this important work. We urge the Governor to maintain the initiative and ensure best endeavours in protecting key worker time as much as is possible.

### **2.3.4 To the National Chair of Independent Monitoring Boards**

The records of the prison are predominantly in digital format, including prisoner records held on C-NOMIS. The efficacy of the board is sometimes hindered by an inability to readily access the database. The board is minded to recommend to the National Chair that on-going training and support in the use of C-NOMIS is desirable.

## **2.4 IMPROVEMENTS**

The board continues to benefit from excellent administrative support including the services of a dedicated clerk to the board, a HMPPS networked computer system and access to a printer. Preparations for the installation of a second networked computer are in progress with an expectation that the equipment will become available from July 2018. The IMB office is well positioned and accessible.

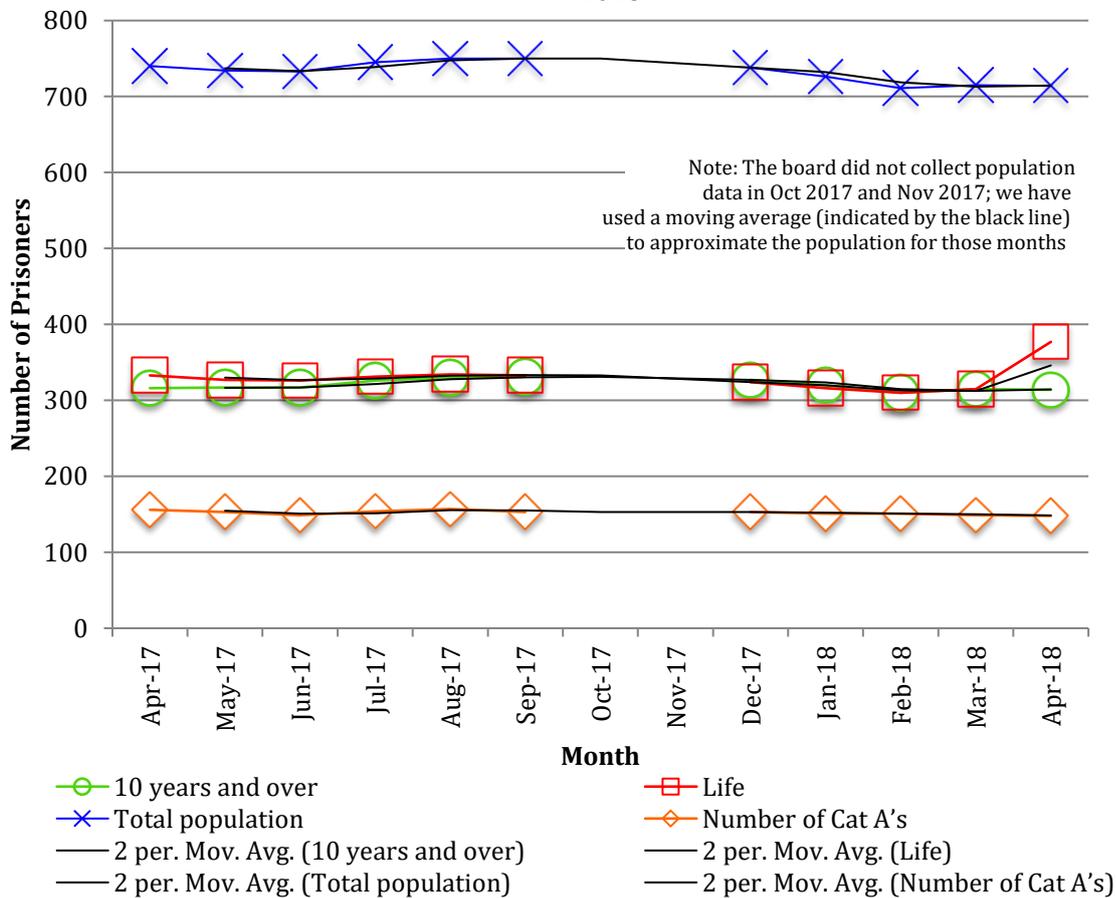
## **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

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- 3.1. HMP Wakefield is a high security prison for men typically in security categories A and B. It was originally built as a house of correction in 1594. In 1966, the prison was designated as a 'dispersal' prison following the recommendations of the 1966 *Mountbatten Report* into Prison Escapes and Security. Today, HMP Wakefield is one of 13 'Long Term High Security Estate' (LTHSE) establishments and a main lifer centre with a focus on serious sex offenders. The average prison roll is circa 740 including approximately 150 Category A and no more than 10 High Risk Category A prisoners. Annual population statistics for the main population categories are shown in Fig 1.
- 3.2 There are four residential wings: A, B, C and D. All cells are of single occupancy. Prisoners are also held in the Health Care Centre (HCC), the Segregation Unit and the Closed Supervision Centre (CSC), the latter two being located in F wing.

- 3.3 The CSC unit at Wakefield formerly operated as an Exceptional Risk Management Unit (ERMU), housing the most violent, dangerous and complex prisoners presenting with acute levels of risk within the CSC system. Recent changes to the operation of the CSC system include the discontinuation of role designations, but Wakefield continues to provide CSC pre-selection assessments following referral.
- 3.4 Prisoners in the general population have access to a range of facilities including a gymnasium, library, external exercise area, a synthetic sports surface, chapel and chaplaincy service, psychology, education and workplaces.
- 3.5 During the reporting period, the principle providers of contracted services to HMP Wakefield included CareUK (for healthcare), Amey (for estates and maintenance), Novus (for Education), and GeoAmey (for prisoner transport, excepting Category A and high risk prisoners). West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company is the local provider of resettlement services.

**Fig.1 Time-series of prisoner population at HMP Wakefield April 2017-April 2018**



## B Evidence sections 4 – 11

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### 4 SAFETY

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- 4.1 The board's view of safety is generated through attendance at routine meetings of the 'safer prisons' team, together with our own monitoring observations and the perceptions of Listeners, wing representatives and individual prisoners whom we encounter during our work. In forming our view, we have sourced evidence from deaths in custody reports, wing safety reports, recorded acts of violence, self-harm and contemporaneous notes made in prisoners' individual 'Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork' (ACCT) documents.

#### Deaths in Custody

- 4.2 There were four deaths in the 2017/18 reporting year compared with eight deaths in the previous period. All occurrences were recorded as death by natural causes and consistent with an ageing prisoner population predominantly serving long sentences. The Fatal Incidents Team of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) investigates all deaths in custody at Wakefield including natural cause deaths. The board is satisfied that each occurrence has been satisfactorily handled in a respectful and dignified manner with the use of prison liaison officers to engage with and notify relatives and provide the appropriate support.
- 4.3 Following previous isolated criticism (see *'Investigation into the death of a man on 4th September 2014, while in the custody of HMP Wakefield'*; Prisons and Probation Ombudsman) regarding the use of restraints in cases where prisoners are transferred to hospital, it is pleasing to report the successful development (by Wakefield staff) and implementation of their new death in custody algorithm, which is used in line with the *Graham* judgment and requires that 'levels of restraint used on prisoners must at all times be proportionate to the perceived security risks and be balanced by consideration of care and decency for the prisoner'.

#### Wing Safety

- 4.4 Wing safety perception figures are collated from all prisoner wing representatives who attend joint monthly meetings. The data collated during the reporting period generally reflects a positive impression of the perception of safety but the board notes perceptions from representatives of two residential wings who report feeling 'less safe' than previous reporting years. The representatives suggest an increased number of younger prisoners, higher noise levels, an increased availability of drugs and substance misuse, 'queue jumping' and prisoners forming groups during association can cause older prisoners to feel threatened. There are isolated allegations of staff-on prisoner and prisoner-on-prisoner bullying. The board has attempted to identify, through cross-reference of adjudication data and applications to the board, any patterns or areas for concern. Senior prison management is aware of these issues and we will continue to monitor the progress of efforts to improve prisoner perceptions.
- 4.5 There are a moderate number of prisoner representatives located on each wing to provide peer support with the express purpose of tackling anti-bullying, assisting with caring and provision of the Samaritans' Listener scheme. The prison continues to recruit additional representatives in order to strengthen the existing support. Samaritan phones are available on each wing and are clearly marked. The prison works closely with Samaritans staff who regularly attend the Safer Prisons meeting. In addition, the Prisoner Visitors

Scheme remains available to all prisoners, irrespective of the frequency of visits they may receive from family members or friends.

- 4.6 It is important that feedback is given to prisoners so that their perceptions of safety are better understood; this relies on the existing good liaison between the Safer Prisons team and the wing Residential Managers. Our monitoring of this suggests that systems are working well and prisoners feel informed.
- 4.7 The frequency of new receptions into Wakefield is very low; 176 prisoners were received during the reporting year. Nevertheless, the board is satisfied that new receptions are carefully assessed on arrival to provide the most effective induction into the prison and its regime. The reception area is compact but clean.
- 4.8 F wing presents its own unique challenges and we are continuing to monitor the impacts of long-term segregation on a small population of prisoners held at Wakefield. The board is asked to provide updates on its monitoring outcomes through the Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG). The board acknowledges the continued efforts of the prison to encourage prisoners into residential wings whenever possible and understands the complexities and challenges that certain individuals present to safety and security of the prison. Staff safety remains a persistent concern and we have noted increased levels of violence towards staff through recorded acts of violence (see 4.10) and use of force data.
- 4.9 HMP Wakefield historically maintained seven safer cells but these are no longer regarded as fulfilling the current requirements as they have strayed from the specification and would require modifications to meet the same. At the time of the reporting period there was no funding identified to address this. As a result, there are four cells in use as “safer” cells and one being utilised as a special accommodation cell.

### **Recorded Acts of Violence / Self-Harming**

- 4.10 The number of acts of violence for the prison remains relatively low, recorded at 110 occurrences. All such incidents of attacks on staff and/or other prisoners are recorded and have been well documented. The use of force, when observed, has been necessary, appropriate, and proportional. The use of CCTV and body-worn cameras continues to prove very effective and useful when dealing with and reporting such incidents.
- 4.11 During this reporting period, the overall number of self-harm incidents has decreased from 270 to 238. The number of individual people self-harming has increased from last year, but indications are showing a decrease in self-harming by known challenging individuals with complex and difficult problems.

### **ACCT Documents**

- 4.12 The number of ACCT documents opened has increased from 114 (61 different individuals) to 148 (90 different individuals).
- 4.13 The random sampling of these documents has highlighted infrequent minor recording issues, mainly in ensuring all details are completed in a timely manner. To address this concern, focused staff training is now being addressed with the roll-out of a new ACCT training package that commenced during this reporting year.

### **Summary**

- 4.14 The Board considers HMP Wakefield generally to be a calm and generally safe environment despite its challenging population mix. The continuation of an influx of

younger prisoners has fashioned concerns amongst the more elderly prisoners and we will continue to monitor the impacts of this. During the reporting year, there has been an increase in the use of illicit drugs; however, this is under constant monitoring and review and is being taken seriously by the establishment. To assist with prisoner safety there is a programme of support to all residents through the Prisoner Support Scheme. This provides for Listeners and Carers being available on all wings on a 24/7 basis, Samaritans' phones being available via fixed lines and DECT (cordless) phones and the Prisoner Visitors Scheme being available to all prisoners.

## **5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS**

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- 5.1 Most of the formal work dealing with and evaluating equality, inclusion and diversity issues is undertaken by the Prisoner Equality Action Group (PEAG), usually chaired by the Deputy Governor and co-chaired by a prisoner drawn from the cohort of equality representatives on the main residential wings A-D. The PEAG meets on a monthly basis. Practical actions flow from decisions of the PEAG – ranging from very detailed day-to-day concerns through to more strategic considerations such as matters derived from HMCIP and CQC inspection reports. The IMB member with specialist responsibility for equality and diversity resigned at the mid-way point of the annual reporting cycle, due to the demands of another public office. The board was therefore unable to continue to provide a continuous monitoring presence at PEAG meetings. Nevertheless, the board is furnished with a complete set of data for the reporting period and undertook a desk study using the accompanying data.
- 5.2 PEAG maintains a running agenda of live issues, focused on issues concerned with the 9 protected characteristics specified in the Equality Act 2010. The nature of the population characteristics at Wakefield is such that robust attention to and monitoring of equality and fairness is essential to the just and humane treatment of all. A snapshot taken on the 11th April 2018 illustrates this; 31% of prisoners were registered disabled, 9% were subject to Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) and 8% of the population was aged over 70.
- 5.2 In the 2016/17 annual report we highlighted good practice in this area, and in particular the well attended PEAG meetings. This continues to be the case.
- 5.3 The PEAG is provided with data insights generated from the Equality Monitoring Tool (EMT) and is now undertaken on a monthly basis to establish variances in expected performance across the protected characteristic domains for complaints, adjudications charged and proven, use of force, segregation and incentives and earned privileges (IEP) In the 2016/17 annual report, we highlighted the practical challenges arising from issues raised by the PEAG, and the subsequent enactment and tracking of actions through to resolution.
- 5.4 The prison's formal Equality Action Plan (EAP) derives at least in part from PEAG; staff can view and are encouraged to access the EAP via the establishment's shared service drive. A copy of the plan is available for all prisoners to view in the Library.
- 5.5 The formal complaints system (reported to PEAG, and feeding into the EAP if necessary) is based on consideration of Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFs) investigations. Early in the reporting year, concerns were raised that some DIRFs can create a significant number of actions across functional groups – this can lead to challenges in achieving an expedient and appropriate resolution. At the conclusion of the reporting year, there were 3 DIRF investigations still outstanding from previous months and 4 DIRF investigations outstanding from last month or returned for further work. All the above DIRFs are quality checked by the chair of the PEAG. DIRFs continue to be

scrutinised by the Equality Representatives with a random selection. The DDC randomly selects DIRFs and quality checks them on his routine business visits to the Prison.

- 5.6 Recommendations from DIRFs are added to the Equality Action Plan. In the reporting year, there were 78 DIRFs submitted. There are also monthly Equality Reps meetings, at which the reps scrutinize around 10% of the DIRFs, and recommendations from investigations are added to the Equality Action Plan.
- 5.7 The level of constructive joint working between officers and prisoners continues to be impressive.
- 5.8 The prison has a well-established forum for support for and discussing issues with foreign national prisoners: foreign national representatives continue to attend these PEAG.
- 5.8 The IMB continues to monitor faith issues such as each faith group's access to worship, families and pastoral support. At the end of the reporting period, we note continued concerns of some prisoners on B wing with mobility problems who continue to experience difficulties in attending chapel.

## **6 SEGREGATION UNIT**

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- 6.1 The segregation unit is located in F wing and is completely separate from the main residences. During the reporting year, we have monitored the wing at near full capacity and note that a significant proportion of prisoners are transfers from other prisons' segregation units as a consequence of disruptive behaviour. It is common for Wakefield segregation staff to be charged with the safe custody of segregated prisoners who are charged with or have been found guilty of extreme violence towards staff and/or prisoners.
- 6.2 Rule 46 prisoners are held in the ERMU, which is also located in F wing. Due to the complex nature of CSC prisoners, two members of the IMB team have responsibility of monitoring the unit and attending the CSC review meetings; these are held monthly. Other board members attend the review meetings on an ad-hoc basis.
- 6.3 The segregation prisoners are seen and given the chance to speak with the IMB on a weekly visit to the unit, with all the visits recorded in the IMB rota reports.
- 6.4 As well as having full CSC accommodation, HMP Wakefield is also an assessment unit for potential CSC prisoners, with dedicated cells for that purpose.
- 6.5 Some of the prisoners on the unit present with severe mental health problems, which are addressed by the staff in a professional manner but they are occasionally let down by external agencies not giving full regard to the situation. It is particularly difficult finding beds for these prisoners in secure mental health hospitals, as outlined in the complex case review meetings for the prisoners in question.
- 6.6 In conclusion the unit is well run by very professional staff with the various facilities, such as the gym, being in constant use, but the mental health issues of some of the prisoners require urgent attention. This is not a reflection of HMP Wakefield but of external agencies

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

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- 7.1 The general levels of cleanliness on the residences (A-D wings) are to be commended. Cleaning teams are regularly to be observed providing a high standard of service; the teams are comprised almost exclusively of prisoners under the supervision of the prison staff. The external spaces are generally very clean with low levels of litter adjacent to the residential buildings.
- 7.2 The residential buildings, by virtue of their age and design, introduce a number of challenges to prisoners with mobility issues. This is usually manifest in the failure of lift equipment on the residential units. Prisoners have reported to us that periods of 'equipment downtime' impact upon their ability to access a full regime.
- 7.3 The laundry provides a good service to the prison, despite challenges of operating with aged and/or unreliable assets. During our monitoring we have observed delays in the repair of equipment located on the wings. There is a scheme in operation that is triaging laundry deliveries into HMP Wakefield to ensure that a consistent and reliable supply of bedding sheets is available to each and every prisoner. This is a prisoner led initiative that emerged from the 'Enabling Environment' initiative.
- 7.4 A new 'key worker' initiative was rolled out during the end of the reporting period. This replaces the previous 'personal officer' scheme. Initial indicators suggest that staff are embracing the new system and prisoners are generally aware but we are unable to form any conclusions on the efficacy of the scheme in this reporting period.
- 7.5 The board is aware of perceptions of low-level prisoner-on-prisoner bullying and harassment on the residential units. The board notes a two-fold increase in the number of applications related to bullying and harassment, albeit from a very low level of 7 in the previous reporting period. There is no evidence to suggest that this is, at present, a serious problem but the board feels that it could be, if unchecked.
- 7.6 The board is pleased to note that the snooker table repair issues identified in our previous annual report are now resolved.
- 7.7 The visits centre (serviced by POPS) is located outside the secure perimeter. It regularly holds coffee mornings with speakers; this provides visitors with the opportunity to ask questions of staff.
- 7.8 The building is modern but would benefit from a deep clean.
- 7.9 The PE department provides prisoners with access to a range of physical activities in a gymnasium and on an outdoor artificial sports surface. We are aware of a number of health promotion initiatives that are designed to reflect the needs of an increasingly aged population.

### **Well-being Project**

- 7.10 The well-being project was introduced during the last year. Funding was provided for Age UK to be involved for six months. Two rooms were allocated and senior prisoners met for several sessions a week involving various activities including, games, art, music, films, writing and project work. After a slow start the sessions have become very popular. It is hoped to introduce more activities in the next twelve months and the board will maintain interest.

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

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- 8.1 There are two members of the IMB in Wakefield who continue to monitor the provision of all healthcare and elderly social care services within the prison.
- 8.2 2017-2018 sees the first complete year with provision for healthcare provided by Care UK. The major challenges required in bringing together the previous separate nursing teams into a collective one are well in hand, and integration remains positive. The IMB are again pleased to report excellent communications with all members of the healthcare teams, and we would wish to place on record the significant contribution made in this regard by the previous head of healthcare post holder who has now been promoted to a senior role at regional level. The new head of healthcare continues to welcome the IMB to bi-monthly meetings, and, by invitation, attendance at several meetings and committees concerned with continued and forward planning of healthcare services.

### **In-patient Care**

- 8.3 All staff vacancies for in-patient services are now filled dependent on security clearances. Nursing staff continue to extend their clinical roles as a means of reducing unnecessary hospital attendances. There is also an established team of nurse prescribers, as well as an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) now in post to co-share clinical cover with visiting GPs. However, the IMB is aware of some resistance by the prison authorities towards the role of the ANP and will continue to monitor this.
- 8.4 The in-patient healthcare facility continues to house high profile/non-clinical prisoners and this remains an unsatisfactory situation. The IMB had previously noted concerns that these prisoners were not able to access education/work. However, this issue is now being addressed with input from education and art therapy, thus providing a more holistic approach to care.
- 8.5 End of life care continues to be of a very high standard in HMP Wakefield. We are pleased to report that the palliative care suite has recently been redecorated and upgraded and is a credit to all those involved in the planning and now successful operation of this facility. There is also a renewal of the Macmillan professional excellence award and commitment to the "Dying Well in Custody Charter".

### **Mental Health**

- 8.6 CareUK are now contracted to provide healthcare service provision for psychiatry, recovery and psychology services by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Trust. Current mental health caseloads stand at a total of 79 and these are broken down between six practitioners within the team.
- 8.7 This is a 7-day/week service, with no night cover. Current staffing establishments are all filled and the nursing team report enhanced care opportunities when not having to cover a night shift rota. Consequently, all night nurses on duty from healthcare have been given extra training in crisis cover. A full-time learning disability nurse is also in post.

## **Pharmacy Outpatients**

8.8 The IMB have been monitoring the transition of medication dispensing on the wings from a nurse-led to a pharmacy-led service. This has been a lengthy process; a full-time pharmacist and pharmacy support assistant have now been appointed (awaiting security clearances) and a senior pharmacy technician commences in September 2018. We will continue to appraise developments and access the prisoner/patient forums for ongoing service reports.

## **Recovery Services**

8.9 At the end of the reporting year, the caseload was 116 prisoners. Of this caseload, 28 prisoners access the service for alcohol only support.

## **Additional Information**

8.10 Over the last few months, there has been a significant shift towards increased collaboration between prison nursing staff and A+E staff from Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Prison based nursing staff have been instigating pathways of integrated care with hospital staff. This, as a means of providing a better service for ill prisoners e.g. performing in-house blood tests; the commencement of a care pathway for deep vein thrombosis, and the formation of healthcare passports for patients/ prisoners who are taken to hospital. A new business case has been submitted to the NHS commissioners for the resources needed to take this initiative forward. Elderly and Social Care continues to be monitored by the IMB. Elderly care assessments continue to be carried out and social care provision is provided for those with eligible need.

8.11 Finally, we are pleased to report that the healthcare environment this year has been much more settled and the teams have looked to build on improving the qualitative aspects of care for each prisoner.

## **9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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9.1 Wakefield prison focuses its attention on the significant proportion of its population who have basic skills needs. One of the key targets is to provide support for prisoners to be able to attain levels of ability that enable them to access offending behaviour programmes - a vital necessity when up to 38% of the population are in some stage of denial around their offences.

9.2 A new 'virtual campus' has now opened at Wakefield which is being used by educational classes and is a positive step forward in provision from previous years. The Board recognises that it is still early days and expects to see further engagement over the next year as the full value of this facility is exploited.

9.3 The National Careers Service contract ended in March 2018 and in the short term this may have had a negative effect. In next year's monitoring, this will be explored further to check that there is no longer-term detriment.

9.4 The movement to some level of 'Governor autonomy' for the education budget has allowed a more individualised approach to be taken on the provision of courses and the board has been pleased to note the provision of level 3 courses (for example Geography) beginning to roll out in the establishment.

- 9.5 The prisoner needs analysis for both numeracy and literature is now all documented and in combination with this a potential new pay policy is being addressed which will help motivate individuals with specific learning and work needs/opportunities to take up the offered provision. This initiative will particularly help focus on preparing individuals for work and will be linked to mentors and trainers to give a fully joined up approach. The IMB is very supportive of this piece of work and will monitor its result in the year to come.
- 9.6 Both the Gym and Library continued to receive positive feedback and comments to the IMB throughout the year and the board noted that with a change in librarians there appears to be another step up in provision and service.
- 9.7 An area of concern over this year has been the extended length of time it is taking for the clearance of education staff after being offered positions. Whilst mindful of the obvious need for full and in-depth security clearance, the board feels that the whole process needs a national level review, as long delays in appointments have a significant detrimental effect on the day-to-day provision of courses and education at all levels and are becoming the largest factor in complaints raised with the IMB in this area.
- 9.8 This year the IMB undertook to review the support for both education and work from the wider prison staff at Wakefield. We can report that overall there is considerable support for both but have also noted some instances where attendance at education is not always fully supported (such as wing cleaners not attending) and instances where work is still prevented from occurring due to 'operational issues'. The IMB will continue to monitor this and is supportive of senior management's aims to ensure the importance of an education and work ethos is ingrained in all staff at the prison, not just those with direct responsibility.

## **Summary**

- 9.9 It is the view of the board that the education provided is appropriate and meets the needs of the prisoners, particularly in terms of basic skills development. The year has witnessed a steady progression in this area with significant detailed 'baseline' work taking place to ensure a 'fit for purpose' education regime that can meet specific individual needs. Gym and library provision is of a high quality and the board is satisfied that the overall provision for this whole area is good when observing it via our monitoring visits.

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

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- 10.1 Wakefield has 12 workshops and as per prior years, the majority of our concerns relate to the cancellation of workshops and/or lack of meaningful work for prisoners.
- 10.2 The board is particularly concerned by the significant downtime in the waste management workshop, which on investigation, appeared to be a consequence of financial/contractual reasons. The workshop equipment is owned by the prison and due to its age has broken down on more than one occasion. The contract with the maintenance provider does not cover this and alternative arrangements have to be made to have the equipment removed from the site, repaired and then re-sited which can take weeks to get done. Financial pressures drive repairs rather than replacement. The Board would support a review of this arrangement, as the continued disruption to the prisoners in this workshop over a significant period of time became our largest tranche of complaints for the whole year.
- 10.3 Last year the board undertook to review the support given to the workshop teams by the wider prison establishment and specifically the operational support and supply of

parts/materials to the workshops from the stores. Whilst there has been an improvement in this area, there are still operational and resource issues which have been noted as the reason for cancellation or no-work in the workshops during the year. Positively, many of the workshops have grown in size and numbers participating in them, but space available and resources allocated to stores and materials supporting them have not and the logistics and storage implications are having a detrimental knock-on effect noted by IMB members on their monitoring visits. In the coming year, the Board will again monitor the overall effect on prisoners but also specifically look at the stores provision where appropriate as an additional area.

- 10.4 As per education, whilst overall recruitment for the works area has improved, it is the length of time taken for national security clearance of appointees which is causing the most disruption to operational effectiveness, and the board again recommends a national review of the timescales taken.
- 10.5 The board has noted that in this year the provision of 'enrichment' activity overall at Wakefield has improved but conversely this had a detrimental effect on the 'prisoners in work' statistics. The board noted instances of fewer prisoners in workshops but on investigation discovered that they were in a suitably appropriate enrichment course/activity instead. The IMB will work with prison staff to better understand the work numbers to ensure that a change in the statistics reported is not necessarily seen as a negative.
- 10.6 The roll out of the 'prisoner experience' development file with a target-setting document and action plan has continued into all workshops and is now simply referred to as a development tool. In conjunction with team leader training and the previously reported moves towards a new and motivational pay policy, all of these initiatives underpin a more informed, needs-met, fit for purpose work provision which the Board is very supportive of.

## **Summary**

- 10.7 It is the overall view of the board that the scope of work available to prisoners is acceptable and that the allocation of work is fair. The board continues to note good attendance rates. This year has witnessed significant on-the-ground detailed foundation work, which has been necessary to underpin the continued steady progress and improvements to the work offer at Wakefield. Aside from the continued frustration of workshop downtime arising from contractual/staffing clearance issues, the board has received very few negative comments or applications from prisoners in this area.

## **11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION**

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- 11.1 Wakefield's core function as a high security prison with a significant population of long-tariff life-sentenced prisoners (see Fig 1) requires a substantial focus on 'settlement' rather than 'resettlement'. The prison adopts a multidisciplinary approach to supporting prisoners who must learn to cope with the impact of a long sentence. Settlement includes interventions from psychology, education and work. A number of prisoners at Wakefield remain in denial of their index offence(s) and this can introduce some unique challenges.
- 11.2 In the reporting year, 20 prisoners were discharged from custody (time served) and 15 prisoners were released from following a Parole Board decision. This accounts for c. 5% of the average population.

## C Work of the Board

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<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended complement of Board Members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Total number of visits to the establishment	356
Total number of segregation reviews attended	73

## Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	12	6
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	5	4
C	Equality	1	2
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	4	4
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	4	7
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends		
F	Food and kitchens	1	5
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	9	5
H 1	Property within this establishment	15	16
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location		
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)		
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	6	5
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	14	7
K	Transfers	2	5
	Miscellaneous	18	
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>66</b>