



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Hull

for reporting year
1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019

Published
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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

Introductory section

This report does not attempt to give an overview of all aspects of prison life in 2018/19, or to duplicate other specialised documents. The Annual Report is addressed formally to the Secretary of State for Justice and the Minister for prisons.

In addition, the report is addressed to the Governor of HMP Hull; its content may also be of interest to all who work at HMP Hull because it comments on many of the services which they provide. It is a formally published document, and is potentially of interest to all members of the public as well as those connected to the establishment.

Independent Monitoring Board Diversity Statement

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at HMP Hull is committed to an inclusive approach to equality and diversity which encompasses and promotes interaction and understanding between people of different backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, marital status, disability, age, etcetera. It recognises that a fully inclusive approach to diversity must also respond to differences that cut across social and cultural categories such as mental health, literacy and drug addiction.

The Board values this approach to diversity within its recruitment and Board development practices to increase the range of skills and awareness among its members of the diverse needs and perspectives of the population within HMP Hull.

All members of the IMB undertake their duties in a manner that is accessible to everyone within the establishment, regardless of their background or social situation. The Board will also monitor to establish that the experiences and interaction between staff, offenders and visitors is fair and without prejudice. Where this is not the case, the Board will alert appropriate authorities and individuals, including the Governor, senior managers, area manager and the prisons minister.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The IMB at HMP Hull is still short of members, but for most of the year there were nine members, five of whom were working through their probationary year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory sections

Section	Topic	Page
1	Statutory role of the IMB	4
2	Executive summary	5
3	Description of establishment	6

Evidence sections

4	Safety	7
5	Equality and fairness	8
6	Segregation/care and separation unit	10
7	Accommodation (including communication)	11
8	Healthcare (including mental health and social care)	12
9	Education and other activities	13
10	Work, vocational training and employment	14
11	Resettlement preparation	15

	The work of the IMB	17
	Applications to the IMB	18

A Sections 1 - 3

1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent Board, appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison, and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release
- (2) inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern that 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.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Hull between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019. During their visits to the prison, members of the IMB have inspected the accommodation and other facilities, observed the various work and educational activities available, engaged with prisoners and staff, and attended a range of meetings. Their monitoring has also included inspection of relevant documentation

Main judgements

The Board judges that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, and is improving procedures to prepare them for release.

Main Areas for Development

TO THE MINISTER

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

The Board is concerned at the frequency of prisoners' property mislaid – this mainly occurs during transfer between prisons. This is very distressing for prisoners as it often includes personal items such as photographs, which cannot be replaced or financially compensated for.

The Board remains concerned at the poor overall performance of Amey, the facilities management contractor.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Improvements from last year

- (1) Improved safety through increased staff numbers, sustained developments in searching for illicit substances, and the introduction of the key worker programme, and an additional 44 prison officers
- (2) Improved preparation for release, through an expanded and developing resettlement team
- (3) Improved accommodation, through close scrutiny of wing and cell conditions by senior managers, and sustained pressure on contractors to make improvements to facilities such as showers
- (4) Improved family links and visit facilities

3. DESCRIPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT

- 3.1 HMP Hull is a male local prison. It is a category B prison.
- 3.2 The original Victorian wings, which were refurbished after war damage, house up to 645 men, including around 100 or more on remand and around 40 young offenders.
- 3.3 In 2002, the prison population expanded and the size of its site was also increased. The expansion included four new wings, which each house a similar number of vulnerable prisoners, including around 60 who are of pensionable age, and prisoners who are being inducted into the establishment. The expansion also included a new healthcare centre, sports hall and multi-faith centre, and refurbishment of other parts of the prison, including the kitchen, education classrooms and workshops.
- 3.4 Hull is a national sex offender treatment programme resource and has a national psychologically informed planned environment unit (PIPE) housing 50 men convicted of sexual offences.

Population

- HMP Hull has an operational capacity of 1044, against a certified normal accommodation of 732.
- Healthcare is provided by the NHS and City Healthcare Community Partnership.
- Education is provided by Novus, in-house and distance learning.

- Resettlement is provided by a resettlement unit at the prison, Humber Care, Jobcentre Plus and Shelter and other charities.
- Maintenance is mainly provided by Amey and some in-house handyman provision.
- There is input from specialist charities such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Citizens Advice.
- An uncommon feature of the prison is the number of vulnerable prisoners, the majority of whom have committed sexual offences. This is at around 40%, with 1% being of pensionable age, some of whose needs are catered for on K wing.

B Evidence sections 4 – 11

4. SAFETY

4.1 The Board appreciates the emphasis placed on safety by HMP Hull. Noticeboards and the prison's logos bear the words 'safe environment' and 'zero tolerance of bullying'. Prisoners from other establishments frequently tell the Board that they feel 'safer in Hull'. In an unscientific random survey in August 2018, the first prisoner encountered on each wing was asked – as part of a general conversation – 'do you feel safe?' All but one answered 'yes'. They were also asked, 'have you ever felt in danger?' All but two answered 'no'. The same two questions in December 2018 elicited almost the same response. This was similar to the finding in the Measuring the Quality of Prison Life report, which said that prisoners' perceptions of safety were above average for a local prison. Only 17% said that they feared for their physical safety, with 57% strongly disagreeing. Forty-nine percent said that they felt safe from injuries, threats or bullying from other prisoners, while 22% expressed concern. Fifty-three percent felt able to relax, while 20% did not. Forty-three percent acknowledged that they needed to be wary of people around them, but 62% said that they had no real difficulties with other prisoners. The principal concerns that prisoners expressed were about the prison's ability to control the ingress of substances, which were the cause of almost all the potential threats.

4.2 The IMB office log at the prison records 34 incidents relating to safety/violence during the current reporting year. These break down as: 14 alleged assaults or incidents of bullying by staff on prisoners; four men fearing for their safety; six prisoner-on-prisoner attacks; seven incidents of self-harm; and three prisoners injured during appropriate restraint by officers. The Board processed 16 applications alleging assault or bullying by staff, and eight in which prisoners feared for their safety, usually from other prisoners. Out of the 18 rota reports which relate to safety, seven concerned self-harm, four involved fear of violence and seven described black eyes and bruises after prisoners had been in a fight or forcibly restrained. It is not possible to compare these figures with those from the previous year because the fledgling Board at that time was using a different method of record-keeping.

4.2 Board members witnessed two uses of force. Officers demonstrated how riot shields can cause black eyes and bruising to the face but fewer injuries to the rest of the body. Overall, used force to control prisoners 508 times, with peaks of 64 incidents in June, and 57 in July 2018.

4.3 The Board appreciates the high priority set by the Governor to reduce self-harm. Prison data recorded broadly 50 incidents per month throughout the year. The Board notes that self-harm can increase after the seizure of psychoactive substances. A member attended a safer custody meeting which explored this link, and how to sever it.

4.4 New detection methods had led to the seizure of more unlawful mobile phones than in previous years. Fifty-six were found during the reporting year. The numbers were in single digits for 10 months, with peaks in August and December 2018.

4.5 There were eight deaths in custody during the reporting year, six of which were from natural causes. The two apparently self-inflicted deaths were the first of this type since 2015. The Board was impressed by the sensitive way that the prison dealt with two deaths in which relatives wanted nothing to do with the deceased or his possessions. Counselling for other prisoners affected by deaths in custody was caring, professional and quickly provided. The coroner's officer

told the Board that he appreciated the level of cooperation from prison staff, and there was no undue delay in holding inquests. In one instance, there was an unfortunate delay in informing the Board of a death in custody. This lapse in communication has been rectified.

4.6 A total of 792 assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) documents were opened in the reporting year, compared with 752 in the previous year. The Board found the documents and checks to be up-to date and accurate, and the way that ACCT reviews are managed indicates that procedures are used effectively.

4.7 The number of violent incidents was similar to that in the previous year, with 326 in total – 262 prisoner-on-prisoner assaults and 64 attacks on staff.

4.8 The effectiveness of multi-agency public protection arrangements was, again, recorded at 100%.

4.8 The prison was among the first to be equipped with PAVA spray. This was deployed 14 times. A Board member attended use of force meetings throughout the year. The Board was told that each time PAVA was used there was a review. One of these showed how to ensure that only an aggressor – and no other prisoners or staff – was affected by the chemicals.

4.9 The Board identified two areas of concern at induction. The language in guidance leaflets was too advanced for some of the men with limited literacy. The printing workshop was expected to replace pamphlets and signs using plain English. Some of the prisoners did not know the identity of their key worker, even when they asked the staff. This was blamed on teething problems with the computer system, but it requires further monitoring. Prisoners told the Board that they appreciated the location of the induction wing in the new part of the prison. They said that first-time prisoners were over-awed by the forbidding Victorian centre of the establishment.

4.10 For a second year, the Board notes the Governor's concern that violence escalated when prisoners were transferred at short notice from other establishments. This was exacerbated during the reporting year, when transfer prisoners arrived unsearched and had weapons – in one case, a sharpened pole – concealed in their clothes.

5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

5.1 The prison's equality action team takes the lead in dealing with and evaluating equality, inclusion and diversity issues within the establishment. Meeting regularly throughout the year with a running agenda of live issues, focused on the nine protected characteristics specified in the Equality Act 2010, this acts as a forum for improvement and discussion of pertinent concerns regarding equality issues.

5.2 Equality/foreign national representatives from the prison population feed into this forum but there have been difficulties in recruiting suitable men to undertake this important role as the pay is currently less than that of prisoner information desk workers; this is to be considered for review.

5.3 Age

A snapshot of the population in January 2019 showed little significant change in the age range, and is as follows:

Age range	Total number of prisoners
18-21	80
22-29	255
30-39	286
40-49	161
50-59	112
60-69	66
70 and over	30
Total	990

The above figures appear typical of the general picture as far as age is concerned. Analysis of the incentives and earned privileges (IEP) scheme showed a higher number of 18-25-year-olds on the basic level in comparison with the general population, at a proportion of 2.7:1, and this age group is also the most prevalent group in safer custody reports; this is ascribed to higher levels of unemployment. Managers are looking to address this in recruitment drives. At the other end of the scale, elderly prisoners are mostly cohorted together, and provided with accommodation and a regime which are more suited to their needs than on the general wings.

5.4 Disability

The Victorian building which houses the general accommodation is poorly suited to those with mobility difficulties, and men who use a wheelchair have been severely disadvantaged on several occasions. Cells most suitable for those with physical disabilities are mainly located on wings assigned to sex offenders and are therefore unacceptable to main wing prisoners. Efforts are under way to address this problem and work is ongoing to convert cells on one of the general wings to become suitable for those using a wheelchair.

5.5 'Hidden' disabilities

While obvious provision is made for those with mobility difficulties, the Board is aware that there are other disabling factors which may go unnoticed or unaddressed owing to their less obvious nature. One application was from a man with significant hearing loss who found himself disadvantaged in various ways – for example, he described problems communicating with officers when he was unable to see their faces, having to make his telephone calls in a noisy environment and not being supplied with sufficient hearing aid batteries. The Board has discussed the issue of hidden disability with the Governor, who is working with the equality group to improve the lot of those who may not visibly show disability.

5.6 Gender reassignment

Policies and procedures are available for the management of transgender prisoners within the establishment. There were no transgender prisoners resident during the reporting period.

5.7 Race

The prison population is not particularly racially diverse. A snapshot of the percentage of black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) prisoners is as follows: July 2018: 9.76%; September 2018: 10.2%; November 2018: 9.32%; and January 2019: 12.5%; these are relatively small compared with the percentages at other prisons nationally.

Adjudications showed no significant bias based on race/ethnicity, with a ratio of proven adjudications for non-BAME to BAME prisons of 6.9:1, against 7:1 in the prison population. 5.8 Religion and belief

Chaplaincy services are available for the main religious groups, although there was no available Buddhist chaplain for most of the reporting period. Adequate provision for prayer, dietary requirements and ritual needs appears to be in place. There have been issues with a growing cohort of Pagans, who have been denied requests for candles and incense burning in their cells, on safety grounds.

5.9 Sexual orientation

There is a small population of self-identifying gay men within the vulnerable prisoner accommodation. As part of the equality forum, there is a LGBTQ+ group to communicate their needs with the governing body.

Condoms are available to the whole prison population through the healthcare facility on a request basis.

6. SEGREGATION UNIT

6.1 Board members visit the care and separation unit each week on rota visits.

6.2 They regularly record that men on the unit are looked after well, usually based on comments from the majority of prisoners.

6.3 Rota reports record the skills and understanding that unit officers deploy, and the way that this helps individual prisoners to improve their attitudes and to take more ownership of their individual attitudes.

6.4 Members have attended reviews on the unit as frequently as possible, but have not been able to attend many of them because the scheduling of the hearings has not coincided with the days that members have been able to visit the prison. As the number of members increases, it is hoped that this issue will be resolved.

6.5 Rota reports have recorded positive comments about the way that the reviews and adjudications attended by Board members have been managed.

6.7 A small number of prisoners have been held on the unit for longer periods than prison managers wanted. In some cases they were reluctant to return to the wings, and others had mental health or other complex needs. In each of these situations, the prison has worked intensively to find more suitable locations for the individual.

7 ACCOMMODATION (INCLUDING COMMUNICATION)

7.1 During the reporting year, the problems with the showers on the Victorian wings were finally addressed by the contractor, Amey, and they were in reasonable condition by the end of the year.

7.2 The wings are generally well cleaned. Exercise areas are sometimes not adequately cleaned, so exercise sessions have taken place with rubbish thrown from cell windows remaining at the edges of the yard.

7.3 The daily regimes have been effectively managed. Occasionally, prisoners have been locked up for longer than they have expected, but these situations have been in response to specific behaviour or safety concerns.

7.4 Domestic arrangements are particularly well managed on the wings accommodating vulnerable prisoners because the teams of prisoners supporting the regimes are more stable and experienced than elsewhere. Prisoners' support teams on the other wings work hard to cope with the demands of men who are new to prison and transient prisoners.

7.5 Board members regularly record that the food portions served look appropriate, menus are varied and meet a range of diets, and the serveries are hygienic and well managed. Prisoners who have been in the establishment for some time generally speak positively about their meals.

7.6 There are adequate laundry arrangements.

7.7 There are regular applications concerning property that has not followed prisoners as they have moved from one prison to another. This is partly due to a conflict between the number of bags that some prisoners are permitted to accumulate and the capacity of the transport contractors' vans. The other cause is the lack of an effective tracking system.

7.8 Even after the introduction of a large number of inexperienced officers, staff-prisoner relationships have remained positive. The introduction of the key worker initiative is leading to a significant improvement in officers' knowledge of individual prisoners.

7.9 Prisoners do have access to information concerning their legal rights. Some Board applications have raised questions about this, but in most situations the prisoners did not understand what they were entitled to or were overambitious.

7.10 Prisoners have access to appropriate canteen and mail order catalogues. This system is more accessible on the wings accommodating vulnerable prisoners because of the increased number of supporting prisoners, and the more stable population. The prisoner information desk workers are available and fully informed on the other wings.

7.11 Communication with prisoners about regime or facilities changes is adequate.

8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

8.1 The healthcare provision is provided by City Health Care Community Partnership. An overview of staffing, services and resources cannot be commented on as, despite contact and requests for information from the management of Hull's healthcare unit, no information has been forthcoming. However, the Governor was taking steps to ensure that Healthcare information is passed to the Board.

8.2 The healthcare unit has two floors. The ground floor houses GP and nursing services, with waiting rooms and rooms for visiting specialists. The administration department is also located on the ground floor. A duty rota report noted that on one occasion the waiting room was overcrowded, with men standing. Additionally, it was recorded that one of the waiting rooms became unbearably hot during the warm weather, causing some discomfort for those waiting a considerable time to be seen in the clinics.

8.4 The wellbeing unit is located on the second floor of the healthcare unit and has 14 individual cells, including a palliative care suite and two constant observation cells. Duty rota reports note that this unit has a positive atmosphere, with experienced officers who are knowledgeable about the prisoners in their care. The unit is clean and well presented. It has been observed that the officers communicate well with prisoners and visitors alike.

8.5 Observation of the services provided by the healthcare unit showed that they seem to be in line with those in the community. However, this cannot be quantified by data.

8.6 Healthcare complaints, via the application process, are referred to the patient advice and liaison service. The majority of these applications concerned prescribing issues.

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1 Education is provided by Novus and offers 250 places. A Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons report after an inspection in spring 2018 was positive. It praised learner behaviour and improving attendance. It said that planning was good, and led to successful outcomes for most learners, except in English. It opined that some targets were not sufficiently challenging.

9.2 Initial assessments are thorough but fairly institutional – presenting learning as an obligation rather than an opportunity for those who need it most. Although the PowerPoint presentations in the induction sessions included extensive and important information, prisoners did not pay much attention, and at any given time four men were being interviewed in another room.

9.3 Board members recorded good behaviour in level 1/2 English, where the work was challenging but not particularly engaging. One well-qualified learner who had signed up for the course just to get out of his cell complained about having different tutors for consecutive sessions, causing a lack of continuity.

9.4 Engagement in one mentoring course was impressive. The environment was well organised, with relevant displays. The tutor's questions were thoughtful and challenging, and the men responded with creative suggestions. It was clearly a beneficial use of their time. The work was constructive, demanding and enhanced social and interpersonal skills.

9.5 Participants in a catering course were positive about how their attitudes to cooking changed as a result of the course, but were disappointed that it lasted only four weeks.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

10.1 There are 711 full time work places and 73 part time. These provide a range of types of work available, which are engaging, relevant in the outside world and challenging.

10.2 Allocation of work is carefully and fairly managed. Vacancies, which are usually created by prisoner moves, are quickly filled. Industries, education classes and jobs on the wings provide opportunities for 85% of the prison population. Prisoners on remand are not required to work.

10.3 Attendance at work during the reporting year was 83%, which was an improvement on the previous year. This included half of the young offenders, half of prisoners of pensionable age and almost half of those on remand.

10.4 Workshops such as engineering, printworks and maintenance provide satisfaction, responsibility and a sense of contribution. Prisoners recognise the skills they are developing and their relevance after release, and enjoy the sense of ownership.

10.5 There is a well-trained gardening team, which gains enormous satisfaction from its work, and has won national awards for it. These included the Windlesham Trophy (a national prison gardens competition) in 2018. 10.6 There is a range of roles for prisoners on the wings, such as befrienders, care buddies, Shelter workers and supporters on the prisoner information desks. These roles make use of and develop prisoners' skills relating to personal interaction which will also be valuable after release.

10.7 There are good links with external companies, and the prison is working hard to develop these further. Current arrangements include Offploy - a recruitment agency run by an ex offender brokering employment for offenders; Eltheringtons Ltd – the prison does commercial work for them and they have employed 3 x prisoners; Dove House Hospice who run a workshop in the prison upcycling furniture; Luxury Gardens; The Smile Foundation; The Deep visitor centre; Hull4Heroes; RSPCA; Trackworks who have opened a training facility in Hull and have been into the prison recruiting; Greene King, who have offered 7 x prisoners employment; Keepmoat Homes; and Hull Kingston Rovers - delivering coaching course and employability within the prison; and Trinity Market, Hull.

11. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

11.1 Provision for resettlement is currently undergoing a dynamic programme of improvement. Initial reluctance to engage by some providers within the prison has been overcome, and the team is now working hard to improve its links with outside providers to get a clearer picture of the effectiveness of their collaborative strategies.

11.2 There are good and constantly improving links with real employment prospects.

11.3 Many prisoners have spoken positively about the courses which support them to change their response to drug and alcohol risks, or to rethink the attitudes that have led them to offend. These are not easy projects to develop among a population which includes young offenders, remand prisoners and men on long-term sentences.

11.5 Family links are carefully managed. Visit facilities have been significantly improved to be more welcoming for families and to offer engaging support and activities for children. A growing range of family days is being developed to keep prisoners in contact with their outside links.

11.6 There has been a number of informative and encouraging resettlement markets, where soon-to-be-released prisoners have been able to discuss the reality of the workplace with local employers and agencies. In response to Lord Farmer's report on family ties, the prison has been working closely with the Clinks charity to improve the families and significant others strategy and local practice.

11.7 The offender management unit is well informed about prisoners' needs and aspirations. Its efforts to support resettlement by moving prisoners closer to home for the run-up to release are sometimes undermined by national strategies to manage disruptive prisoners, and sometimes their ability to help prisoners get onto the programmes identified in their sentence plans is restricted by staff shortages.

11.8 Sentence planning and OASYS management are up to date. Prisoner engagement are well supported by the key worker initiative, although the lack of available information about previous qualifications and the consequential emphasis on level 1 numeracy and literacy creates a somewhat demotivating start for highly qualified prisoners.

11.9 Links with external partners are growing and there is more support for opening bank accounts.

11.10 There is little helpful feedback from the community rehabilitation company about the number of men who are released and avoid reoffending, so it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of the resettlement programmes.

11.10 When men are released from court, the length of time it takes to approve their release sometimes puts them under travel and accommodation pressures that they are not equipped to manage.

C Section – Work of Board

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended complement of Board members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	2 + 4 dual boarders
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9 + 1 dual boarder
Total number of visits to the establishment	262
Total number of segregation reviews attended	7

D Section - Applications

(NB: Previous reporting year not applicable because there was no Annual Report and no record-keeping functioning Board)

Code	Subject	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	12
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	4
C	Equality	7

D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	17
E 1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	10
E 2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	0
F	Food and kitchens	1
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	36
H 1	Property within this establishment	11
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	12
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	2
I	Sentence management, including home detention curfew, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	8
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	24
K	Transfers	10
L	Miscellaneous	26
Z	Complaints on Comp 1's and Comp 1a's	5
	Total number of IMB applications	195

Voluntary and community sector organisations and other external agencies working in partnership with HMP Hull include:

167 Centre
Age Concern
ARKH – (Asylum Seekers and Refugees of Kingston upon Hull) Ltd.
Barnardos
DOC – Developing Our Community
Gender Shift-Transgender
Goodwin Development Trust
Home-Start (Hull)
Hull Chinese Cultural Centre
Hull City Council
Hull Gypsy and Traveller Project
Hull Mexican Association
Hull Mosque and Islamic Centre
Humber All Nations Alliance
Humber Mentoring Project
Humberside Criminal Justice Board
Hull Asylum Seekers Support Group
LGBT Forum
Pre-school Learning Alliance
Royal British Legion
Samaritans
Sikh Gurdwara

Glossary

The following abbreviations are either used within the report or are applicable to the Prison Service.

ACCT Assessment, care in custody and teamwork – replacement for F2052SH

BAME Black, Asian or minority ethnic

IEP Incentives and earned privileges – Prisoners can be on basic, standard or enhanced levels

IMB Independent Monitoring Board