



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Wealstun

**For reporting year
1 June 2019 – 31 May 2020**

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Introductory 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 is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required to:

- 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
- inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
- 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.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen protection for people deprived of their liberty. The protocol recognises that such people are particularly vulnerable and aims to prevent their ill-treatment through establishing a system of visits or inspections to all places of detention. OPCAT requires that States designate a National Preventive Mechanism to carry out visits to places of detention, to monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees and to make recommendations for the prevention of ill-treatment. The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

2. Description of the establishment

2.1 HMP Wealstun is a category C adult training and resettlement prison for men, situated in a semi-rural area near Wetherby, West Yorkshire. It has a certified normal accommodation of 810 and an operational capacity of 833. However, the latter was reduced to 810 in April 2020, to enable all prisoners to be housed in single cells during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2 There are 10 residential units and a segregation unit. A and B wings are the original 1960s remand centre buildings; A wing includes a residential support unit of self-isolators; C wing is a pre-fabricated single-cell accommodation unit; D wing accommodates the majority of prisoners on the integrated drug treatment system programme and half of D wing is the incentivised substance-free living unit; E, F, G, H, I and J wings were converted from open category D accommodation to closed category C accommodation; I wing holds some of the older population and is the first night and induction wing; H wing is mainly for prison kitchen workers.

2.3 However, following the COVID-19 outbreak and the need to manage different cohorts of prisoners, I and J wings are now the reverse cohort units, and any prisoners transferred in are placed there for 14 days.

2.4 The site also comprises a kitchen, visitors centre, chaplaincy, gym, library, healthcare centre and a number of workshops. A reception area for prisoners' visitors is located outside the main gate.

2.5 The prison is part of the public sector and, although Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service is responsible for the operation of the establishment, the main service providers are:

- Novus, for learning and skills
- Care UK, for the provision of physical/mental healthcare
- GEOAmey, for escort provision
- Amey, for the provision of facilities management and site maintenance
- St Giles Trust, for resettlement services
- Jigsaw, for family intervention services.

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

3.1.1 The national lockdown that followed the COVID-19 outbreak has limited the Board's ability to gather information since 24 March 2020 and discuss the drafting of this report. The Board has therefore tried to cover as much ground as it can in these difficult circumstances but inevitably there is less detail and supporting evidence than usual. Ministers are aware of these constraints.

3.1.2 This report presents the findings of the Board at HMP Wealstun for the period 1 June 2019 – 31 May 2020. Board evidence comes from observations made on visits, scrutiny of records and data, informal contact with prisoners and staff, surveys and prisoner applications. Since the start of lockdown, monitoring has been conducted remotely through regular telephone and email contact with the Governor, wing staff and functional heads.

3.1.3 This has been another year of three parts: 1) the aftermath of, and improvements resulting from, the Board's raising of concerns with the then Secretary of State, Rory Stewart, regarding the support promised for Wealstun as part of the 10 Prisons Project, and the lead-up to the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) inspection of October 2019; 2) the period after the reasonably successful results of the Inspection; and 3) lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from 24 March 2020.

3.1.4 The level of external support in the lead-up to the HMIP inspection was generally good, with some stability in the senior management team (SMT). However, although staffing levels remained at a reasonable level, financial pressures led to officers being sent on detached duty, resulting in further regime restrictions and other impacts on prisoners. This was exacerbated by the prison prioritising the introduction of key workers for all prisoners over other regime demands. The HMIP inspection reported reasonable success overall, with a 'good' outcome for prisoners against the 'respect' section of the 'healthy prison test'.

3.1.5 Unfortunately, the need to balance the budget meant that there were considerable regime restrictions following the inspection. Although the target for the number of key worker sessions was met and signed off in December 2019, the number of sessions subsequently reduced. This was a difficult time for the prison, with a rise in violence and self-harm.

3.1.6 The lockdown from March 2020 was managed well. Although prisoners were only allowed out of their cells for 30 minutes each day, they initially settled well to the regime, with a huge reduction in violence and self-harm, and in the number of prisoners needing to be segregated. Communication with prisoners was good and remains so. Initially, the prison was quiet but in May an influx of drugs resulted in an increase in self-harm and violence. Reverse cohort units were established when transfers from HMP Leeds (and individual transfers) started, and, although complicated, regimes were managed well.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

The fact that drugs have been readily available throughout the majority of the reporting year has meant that the prison is not as safe as it should be. The prison has taken a number of steps to stop the flow of drugs but with limited results, as new avenues seem to be found. The availability of drugs means that prisoners get into debt, resulting in more bullying, violence and self-harm. The standard of completion and control of ACCTs documents were also a concern in the early part of the year.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

In general, prisoners are treated fairly and humanely. Staff/prisoner relationships are generally good. The effectiveness of the management of segregated prisoners varied greatly throughout the year owing to a lack of stable staffing, and too many adjudications were not proceeded with because evidence was not produced. Additionally, as reported previously, the lack of staffing for equality and diversity meant that these areas were not given the priority they deserved.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

Prisoners' health and wellbeing needs are generally well met. Healthcare provision was good, although the lack of staff to escort prisoners to the healthcare unit meant that appointments were missed. The mental health team was good and knew the prisoners in their care well. One of the main issues throughout the year, even before lockdown, was the regular curtailment of regimes due to the lack of staff, which meant that prisoners' time out of their cells was limited.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

Again, this was rather varied throughout the year, as staffing in the offender management unit (OMU) was inconsistent and regime curtailments meant that prisoners were confined to their cells far too frequently, rather than being able to attend work or education.

3.3 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

Ensure that all prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) are released and, if recalled, are not automatically an IPP prisoner again (see paragraph 7.3.6).

Ensure that funding for prisons is sufficient to allow full regimes to be provided to all prisoners, officer training requirements to be met and the prison to be able to support prisoners' rehabilitation, to enable their successful resettlement.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

Ensure that the requirements are clear about when prisons which were part of a pilot should undertake refresher training afterwards (see paragraph 4.5.7).

Consider whether locating IPP and life-sentenced prisoners at a prison without access to relevant programmes, and with ineffective processes to manage them, is an appropriate way to enable them to progress towards release (see paragraph 7.3.9)

Provide more category D open prison places, so that transfers are not delayed once a prisoner is recategorised (see paragraph 7.3.3).

Ensure that as prisons move out of lockdown, any long-term effects on prisoners are identified and plans are in place to address them.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Ensure that once approval is given to resume training, refresher training in PAVA and rigid-bar handcuffs is given priority (see paragraph 4.5.6).

Ensure that adequate staffing is allocated to equality and diversity (disappointingly, an ongoing issue) (see paragraph 5.4.3).

Ensure that all relevant paperwork and witnesses are available for all adjudications, especially for those to be heard by the independent adjudicator (see paragraph 5.2.14).

Ensure that when lockdown restrictions are lifted, key workers are fully in place for all prisoners (see paragraph 5.3.5).

Ensure that Care UK has a process for replying to prisoner complaints within an agreed timescale (see paragraph 6.1.3).

Ensure that post is collected from the post room daily by the wing staff (see paragraph 7.2.4).

Ensure that funding is available to reinstate the Resolve offending behaviour programme, given the significant number of prisoners with a history of domestic violence. (see paragraph 7.3.5).

Ensure that the monthly forum for IPP and life-sentenced prisoners with the OMU is reinstated (see paragraph 7.3.9).

Consider reducing the cost of food in the visits hall to the same as that in the staff mess (see paragraph 7.4.3).

3.4 Progress since the last report

The table below details the Board's view of progress on the issues raised in the previous report.

Issues	Progress
Give consideration to an increase in the discharge grant to prisoners	Will be considered as part of the spending review, 2020
Work with ministerial colleagues to ensure that prisoners are not discharged without accommodation	Progress is slow
Continue to provide appropriate support to resolve the current problems, especially more stability at governor level, additional	Support was maintained until after the HMIP inspection in October 2019

resources while officers are in training and gaining experience, and more support for the prison's recruitment efforts to address the current rates of attrition (four officers are leaving each month) which are in excess of plans and forecast	
Ensure that funding is available to resource the equality team correctly, so that the process allows the Board to monitor satisfactorily	The equality team is still not adequately staffed. This was raised in 2017/18 as well
Provide greater stability at governor, custodial manager (CM) and senior officer (SO) level, and ensure that proper handovers take place	Position has improved since the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020. However, as regimes relax, this will need careful monitoring
Ensure that functions such as safer custody and segregation are properly resourced with experienced staff	Safer custody is now properly resourced with an experienced governor in charge. The Board has seen improvements. Segregation staffing has been stable since the start of lockdown
Continue to press for funding for a managing chaplain	A managing chaplain has been recruited
Ensure that the Board is notified, as specified in the Prison Service Orders, of prisoners removed to segregation, use of force, special accommodation, and so on, as requested by the Board	This has improved over the year, especially with stable staffing in the segregation unit
Ensure that the incentives and earned privileges (IEP) policy is implemented consistently across the prison and that basic IEP prisoners receive their entitlements	The new IEP policy is now in use. The Board is planning a review, once direct monitoring resumes
Ensure that all prisoners receive their entitlement to library facilities	The arrival of an experienced manager in the library improved access until lockdown

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4.Safety

The safer custody team was eventually fully staffed, with an experienced governor in place, from the end of June, with staff being ring-fenced. This led to an improvement over the year.

4.1 Reception and induction

4.1.1 The body scanner and metal detecting equipment provided from funding for the 10 Prisons Project to search prisoners on entry to the prison has improved the detection rate. Prisoners found with secreted items are sent to the segregation unit.

4.1.2 Until the COVID-19 pandemic, initial screening was carried out in reception, with healthcare staff attending. Prisoners were then sent to I wing, where induction took place.

4.1.3 Since lockdown in March 2020, induction and screening have both taken place on the induction wing, apart from the initial temperature check, identification paperwork and body scanning, with property being taken into 72-hour quarantine. This takes around 10 minutes. Each prisoner is brought from the bus to reception and then to the wing separately.

4.1.4 Initially following lockdown, no transfers took place; however, once the courts reopened, prisoners were transferred to Wealstun from HMP Leeds in groups of 10. I and J wings then became reverse cohort units. The induction processes happen individually through cell doors. Healthcare, mental health and substance misuse service workers visit or telephone new prisoners, who are isolated for 14 days. Induction involves officers talking to each prisoner, to explain how the prison regime works and discover any existing issues with individuals. These conversations start from scratch, as, apart from details of offence and sentence, other details of safer custody and so on are not sent to the wing but straight to the safer custody department. Key workers become involved afterwards.

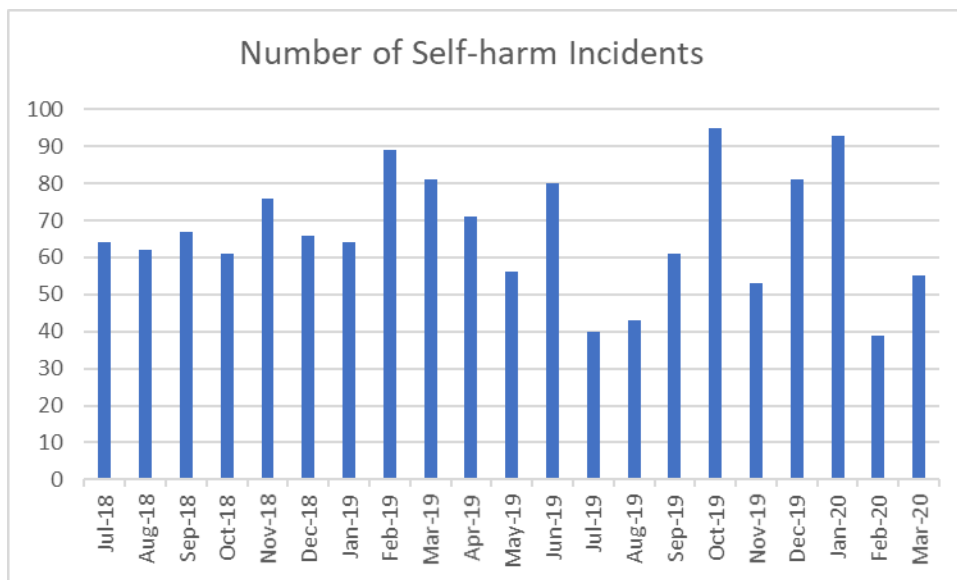
4.1.5 There was a problem initially with vapes as prisoners arrived on the wing from HMP Leeds without them and staff had to provide them. Prisoners had canteen money taken to pay for them and unnecessary extra work was involved. The problem was quickly resolved by allowing prisoners to carry their vapes in a separate bag through reception.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

4.2.1 The level of self-harm, and thus open assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) documents, has fluctuated throughout the year, and reduced to single figures at the beginning of lockdown. The figures reflect the prevalence of drugs in the prison, and thus bullying and debt. Unfortunately, the number of ACCTs was steadily increasing at the end of the reporting period. Members checked the open ACCTs on rota visits and found, in the main, that officers' observations had been recorded on time but lacked detail. Any issues identified were raised with safer

custody staff. The documentation indicated that reviews were normally undertaken on time, although issues had been identified with the control of ACCTs, as a result of which the Governor had strengthened the team and changed processes. The Board commends the team for ensuring that vulnerable prisoners are well supported.

4.2.2 The graph below shows the rate of self-harm from July 2018, when the 10 Prisons Project began, to March 2020 (data is not available post-March 2020). The Board’s view is that the additional funding from the 10 Prisons Project had little impact on the availability of drugs, and thus the rate of self-harm, in the prison.



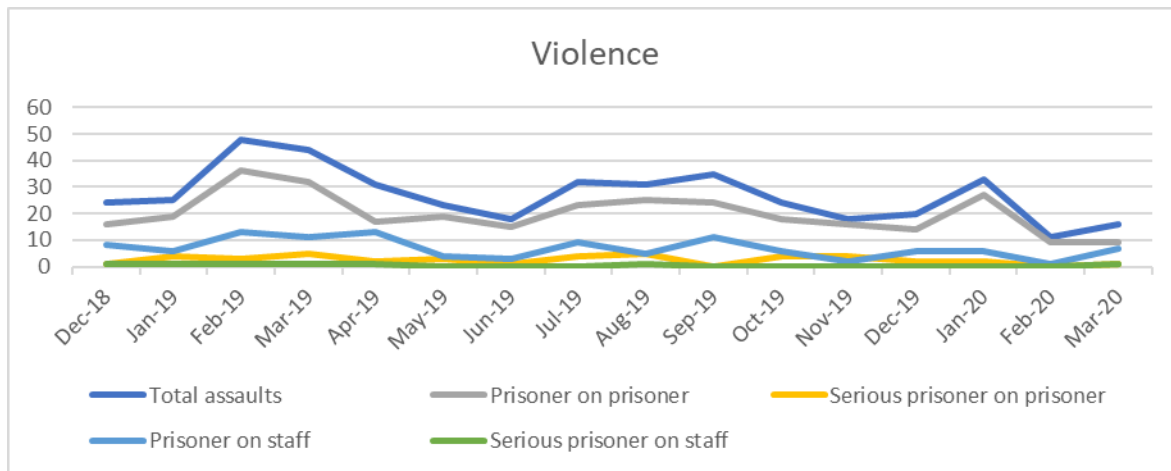
4.2.3 There is an active team of Listeners, and prisoners have access to the Samaritans through their in-cell telephones.

4.2.4 Sadly, there have been two deaths in custody during the reporting year. Lessons learnt from the deaths are quickly identified and changes made. Prison and Probation Ombudsman recommendations are quickly actioned, if they have not already been identified/actioned by the prison.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.3.1 As stated previously, the prevalence of drugs in the establishment has meant that the level of violence has been high at times during the year. It is acknowledged that the number of violent incidents reduced when prisoners were locked up because of COVID-19, reducing the availability of drugs. Managers are aware that once the regime begins to open up again, violence is likely to increase.

4.3.2 The table below shows the number of violent incidents, prisoner-on-prisoner, prisoner-on-staff and serious assaults, for the period December 2018 to March 2020 (data is not available post-March 2020).



4.3.3 Drug-related debt has been shown to be the main cause of violence, and wing staff are encouraged to take a more robust approach in identifying and challenging drug-related bullying before it escalates into violence.

4.3.4 Since the strengthening of the safer custody team, the use and effectiveness of challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs) have improved considerably, as the team reminds CMs to take the necessary action at the correct time.

4.4 Vulnerable prisoners, safeguarding

4.4.1 There are weekly safety intervention meetings, which members of the Board have attended occasionally. The strengthening of the safer custody team has, again, meant that the meetings concentrate on the most vulnerable and problematic prisoners. The meetings also discuss prisoners who are on the basic IEP level, and the plans in place to help them move to standard. Segregated prisoners are also discussed, as they all have open CSIPs; consideration is given to how to reintegrate them into the prison or whether a transfer to another establishment is more appropriate.

4.4.2 The safer custody team has a safeguarding policy which provides detailed instructions on what must be done when there are any safeguarding concerns. The Board is satisfied that these instructions are followed satisfactorily.

4.5 Use of force

4.5.1 Use of force meetings are held monthly, chaired by the Deputy Governor, and are generally well attended. Normally a Board member also attends. The meetings review all incidents where force has been used, whether planned or unplanned. Closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage is viewed, together with body-worn video camera footage, when available.

4.5.2 An ongoing issue throughout the year was officers not turning on their BWVC as soon as it was clear that an incident might happen (so that attempts at de-escalation would be recorded), or at all. Reminders were issued regularly and there seems to have been a gradual improvement.

4.5.3 It was noted that a number of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults occurred in cells, and so were not covered by CCTV. Plans are in place for 'closed-door association',

preventing unsupervised access to cells during association once the regime opens up.

4.5.4 Wealstun was one of the pilot sites for using PAVA (an incapacitant spray), and the prison was able to continue using it once the pilot finished and before it was rolled out across the wider prison estate. The Board was informed of all instances of drawing and using PAVA. These instances are all subject to a management review, and any issues are raised with the member of staff involved. There was a spike in the drawing of PAVA when the prison first locked down, possibly because staff did not want to get too close to prisoners. Following representation from the Board, the usage dropped to the pre-lockdown level of about twice a month.

4.5.5 A major issue raised by the Board was that while Wealstun continued to deploy PAVA as a post-pilot site, there was no requirement to conduct refresher training (as would be the case with other control and restraint training), and eventually 64% of officers became 'out of ticket' but continued to carry PAVA. In addition, as of January 2020, 29% of officers had not been trained in PAVA at all and were not permitted to carry it. The Board was very concerned about this and raised it with HMIP during its visit in October.

4.5.6 While there were trained officers in the prison to deliver the PAVA training, there were a number of other training commitments which took priority, and PAVA training was continually cancelled because of staffing issues. As a result of the HMIP recommendation, plans were put in place to ensure that all officers were trained in the use of PAVA and rigid-bar handcuffs, and for refresher training for the other officers. However, lockdown resulted in training being postponed, as PAVA training must be delivered with SPEAR (Spontaneous Protection Enabling Accelerated Response) training, and so no progress has been made.

4.5.7 Given that the use of PAVA is a concern to a number of people, the two important points here are that the Prison Service should have ensured that PAVA refresher training was included as a priority for the pilot sites, and that the prison should have given more priority to ensuring that all officers are trained in PAVA.

4.6 Substance misuse

4.6.1 The prevalence of drugs in the prison has probably been one of the main reasons for the high levels of self-harm, violence and bullying. During the first part of the reporting year, once support had been made available as part of the 10 Prisons Project, the number of failed mandatory drugs tests reduced by 78%, and this was seen as a positive result for the project. However, it was obvious from the number of drugs finds and prisoners continuing to be under the influence that drugs were still entering the prison. The Board is concerned that the reported success of the project was measured in the reduction in failed mandatory drugs tests, as it is known that these tests do not identify the newer strains of psychoactive substances, and so cannot be taken on their own as a reliable indicator of the full position.

4.6.2 The prison worked extremely hard to reduce drug supply but there were obvious peaks and troughs. It seems that when one route was blocked, another was found. When lockdown began in March 2020, prisoners were locked up for 23.5 hours a day, had little opportunity to mix with other prisoners and had no family visits. The supply of drugs initially seemed to reduce, with a reduction in self-harm, bullying and violence but a corresponding increase in the brewing of illegal alcohol. The

Board was concerned that when drugs became available again, prisoners' tolerance would be reduced and possibly result in overdoses. The prison has put in place communications with prisoners, reminding them that they have come off drugs and should try to stay off them.

4.6.3 On a positive note, the prison has secured funding for enhanced gate security and search teams, and this should be in place in late 2020.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

5.1.1 The condition of the accommodation wings varies according to whether they are on the old or the new side of the prison. The old side has long corridors, where the cells are not visible from the wing offices. The new side wings are built in the modern style and look fresher and brighter. A programme of refurbishment was carried out by 'Q Branch' (a team of prisoners) in the early part of the year. Daily checks by governors did seem to improve living conditions in the prison, as Q Branch worked throughout the year on cell painting, cleaning and small repairs.

5.1.2 The work on replacing the floor in the main kitchen has now been successfully completed. This was a major project, involving installing a temporary kitchen while the work was carried out. This was handled well by staff.

5.1.3 Trolleys are used to transfer hot food from the kitchen to the wings. These are often vandalised, and food stolen, which is frustrating for the kitchen managers, as trolleys are in short supply and often need to be borrowed from other establishments, as there is no budget for replacements. The kitchen staff are now wrapping trolleys in plastic to reduce food theft.

5.1.4 Lack of funding also meant that small jobs, such as replacing a fan in one of the wing serveries, could not be done. There were also some complaints/applications about unacceptable standards of wing serverly hygiene.

5.1.5 The Board continues to be impressed by the kitchen, and the variety and standard of food produced. The kitchen caters well for religious diets and festivals, as well as allergies. Up to lockdown, a farm shop was open to the public outside the prison fence every Friday, selling bread, pastries and cakes from the main kitchen, and vegetables and plants from the prison gardens. The Board was pleased to note that the perseverance shown by the kitchen manager resulted in a prisoner from the kitchen being given release on temporary licence (ROTL) to serve in the farm shop. There were a small number of applications regarding special diets and other issues, and these were either in the process of being resolved or answered very quickly once they were raised by the Board.

5.1.6 It was stated in last year's report that there needs to be greater ownership of small works by wing staff, from initial identification of the fault through to signing off the works on completion. This appears to be working better now.

5.2 Segregation, special accommodation

5.2.1 The segregation unit is a purpose-built building with cells for 13 prisoners, including three short-term holding cells for prisoners awaiting adjudication. There is one constant watch cell, one robust cell (built in such a way as to be unbreakable) and two cells with toilet-traps. Prisoners are removed from their normal location either for their own safety, having received threats from other prisoners, or because they need to be segregated owing to their behaviour or risk level. Cellular

confinement can be imposed as a punishment for infringing the prison discipline rules; once the punishment is completed, the prisoner is returned to the wing.

5.2.2 From January to March 2020, the average number of prisoners segregated each week was 12, which meant that the unit was nearly full. The number of prisoners segregated for more than 42 days increased from one in February 2020 to three in March 2020. Most of the prisoners in the unit are held under Rule 45, for good order and/or discipline. Many prisoners have problems with external issues, such as family problems or drug debts, and then misbehave – for example, damaging their cells – in an effort to obtain relocation.

5.2.3 The Board found that prisoners were staying on the unit for longer and was concerned that at times throughout the year there was little active management to move them back to their normal location. Consequently, transfers were done through virtual segregation (a group of prisons in the area agree transfers of difficult prisoners once they reach 30 days' segregation). Recently, there have been a number of 'dirty protests' on the unit, and there are always self-harm issues there. Segregated prisoners are managed through a CSIP and advised of their targets in order to gain reintegration.

5.2.4 The unit is reasonably well maintained and is kept fairly clean. It is brightly lit and there is little graffiti. There are times when the toilet-traps have obviously not been cleared, and we understand that not all members of staff are happy to do this. The Board has reported this to managers and there seems to have been some improvement.

5.2.5 On the whole, relationships between staff and prisoners on the unit appear to be good, although this does depend, in part, on the visibility of managers. Some staff interact well with the prisoners and appear to know them well. Since lockdown, the staffing levels in the unit have been good and staff have had more time to talk to the prisoners, especially as the number of segregated prisoners has drastically reduced. Some prisoners very much prefer to be in the unit rather than their normal location, which is a risk, as extended segregation may not be good for their mental health. A desire for segregation seems to apply particularly if the prisoner is due for imminent release.

5.2.6 For the first part of the reporting year, issues with the continually changing unit managers were still apparent. The resignation and transfer of regular staff on the unit, combined with night rota and sick leave, affected the regime through lack of continuity, to such an extent that the unit was being run with no regular staff on duty. The guest staff worked hard but a lack of proper management resulted in prisoners not being actively managed back to their normal locations and the number of prisoners in the unit remaining at a high level, which was a concern to the Board.

5.2.7 In October 2019, the arrival of an experienced governor saw a positive change. He was very proactive in bringing stability to the unit and raising staff morale, and the number of prisoners in the unit was not only reduced in a timely manner, but was also kept to a constant roll of about four to five per week. He reintegrated prisoners back to their normal location as quickly as practicable, challenging prisoners who thought that a move to segregation would result in a transfer to another establishment. The length of time that prisoners were segregated for reduced

significantly. A new governor and custody manager were appointed in April 2020, and it is hoped that their experience will continue to provide the stability required, especially as the phases of unlocking begin. The Board will continue to monitor the situation closely.

5.2.8 The regime in the unit throughout the year was reasonable, with exercise and showers offered each day. The regime following lockdown was the same as in the rest of the establishment.

5.2.9 Notification to the Board of segregation, special accommodation, and so on, was sporadic but has improved recently with stable staffing.

5.2.10. A Board member regularly attended Rule 45 boards (a 14-day review of each prisoner's segregation) and found that the correct procedures were generally followed, including paperwork, attendance of a mental health nurse and the prisoners being able to fully participate. Prisoners are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, and work with staff to learn from them how to make changes, avoid further escalation of events and use the support offered.

5.2.11 However, there are concerns about some prisoners being segregated for long periods. For example, one prisoner spent more than 170 days in the unit as a transfer could not be agreed (lockdown being one factor). The Board was concerned about this case, and others, and will be monitoring these situations closely.

5.2.12 Segregation monitoring and review group meetings were held regularly throughout 2019, and a Board member normally attended. Adjudication standardisation meetings were also held regularly but the Board was concerned that not all adjudicating governors attended. The two meetings have now merged, and hopefully this will improve attendance. The Board also found that the lack of management in the unit meant that prior to most meetings there was a rush to collect and collate the required information for the report, resulting in some data being incomplete. The Board will monitor the situation now that there is stable management.

5.2.13 Prisoners were often moved to segregation on an open ACCT. The need to conduct observations meant that staff were under more pressure, especially as there were a number of prisoners on constant watch – for example, in January, seven were on an ACCT, with three on constant watch; in February, six were on an ACCT, with three on constant watch; in March, five were on an ACCT, with one on constant watch. Defensible decision paperwork is normally completed. The number of prisoners in the unit who are on ACCTs has reduced since lockdown (as it has throughout the prison in general) but, given the importance of not segregating prisoners on an ACCT, the Board will continue to monitor this closely.

5.2.14 Adjudication hearings were conducted in a respectful manner and the level of enquiry was good. Prisoners seemed to respond favourably to the approach. There was a large backlog of adjudications throughout the reporting period prior to lockdown, which was unacceptable. Additional resources were allocated during lockdown and the number of outstanding adjudications has now reduced. It was also noted by the Board that a significant number of adjudications heard by the

independent adjudicator were not proceeded with or were dismissed owing to a lack of available evidence/paperwork. Over an eight-month period (August 2019 – March 2020), the independent adjudicator heard 199 cases, of which over 21% were dismissed and nearly 10% had no paperwork. In November 2019, out of nine cases heard, eight were dismissed. Board members attending have seen first-hand the dismissal of these cases due to the evidence (often CCTV footage) not being available, despite the best efforts of the CM. Similarly, many of the cases were adjourned so that the reporting officer could attend. The prison needs to manage adjudications more effectively, to ensure that all relevant paperwork and witnesses are available at the correct time.

5.2.15 In September 2019, the independent adjudicator made a complaint that hearings due to take place were cancelled at the last minute (that is, 2 days prior), which generated significant problems not only for her, but also for the prisoners, who had to rearrange the attendance of their solicitors and witnesses. The Board will continue to monitor this.

5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships, key workers

5.3.1 Relationships between staff and prisoners seem to be generally good. However, the continuing turnover of staff does mean that there is a lack of experience, which affects some aspects of building trust. In March 2019, 50% of prison officers had less than five years' experience, compared with 22% in March 2010 and just 6% in March 2014. However, currently about 26% of all officers have less than one year of service and about 42% of the band 3 officers have less than two years, and it has been seen that the lack of experience often plays a part in difficult situations. The inexperience was evident at times, as staff were reluctant to challenge prisoners who were breaking the rules – for example, vaping on the wing, rather than in their cell, and dress standards.

5.3.2 Officers are normally good at de-escalating difficult situations, but not so good at turning on body-worn cameras at the time of an event (see section 4.5). On the plus side, as has been mentioned, during the lockdown staff have had more time in which to interact with prisoners, who have benefited from this.

5.3.3 Implementation of the key worker part of Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) was very slow due to the lack of staff. In December 2019, the prison received sign-off as 52% of hours were being used productively. However, it soon began to reduce; by the end of January 2020, all staff were trained as key workers and all prisoners were assigned a key worker, but only 31.73% of hours (205.45 hours) were being used productively, and by mid- to late-March 2020 it was down to 25.8%. When asked, many prisoners did not know the name of their key worker or said that they had not seen them for weeks, and certainly not the intended 45 minutes a week. The Board did see a couple of examples of good key working, when members were contacted by the key worker to help a prisoner.

5.3.4 Case management was generally paused during lockdown, with key worker provision being targeted at those prisoners identified through ACCTs and CSIPs as vulnerable, those isolating and those coming up to release, with the key workers

talking to those prisoners at their cell doors. There is now a core group of 15 staff to cover key work requirements.

5.3.5 However, continuity is a concern as there are never the same CMs or SOs on the same rota on the wings. The Board hopes that once there is a more open regime, the prison will ensure that key working is fully in place for all prisoners and with improved continuity. The Board will monitor this.

5.3.6 One issue which the Board raised regularly was that prisoners' post, including details of allocation to work, and so on, was not being collected by the wings, and at times post was a week old. This also affected correspondence from the Board to prisoners. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

5.4 Equality and diversity

5.4.1 The ethnic background of the prison population remains similar to that of last year, with approximately 75% white and the balance from an ethnic minority background. In the 2018/19 reporting year, approximately 20% of the prison population identified themselves as having some form of disability. In the recent HMIP report, 40% of prisoners considered that they had a disability. There is no evidence from the information provided that there is any disproportionality of outcome for BAME prisoners in areas such as use of force or segregation.

5.4.2 Approximately a third of the prison population is under 30, and this group is more likely to be involved in cases of use of force, adjudications and complaints.

5.4.3 As reported previously, staffing for equality remained a challenge as there had been insufficient resources allocated. Responsibility was given to a senior manager in June 2019 and things began to improve. Quarterly diversity, equalities action team meetings continued to be held, having been relaunched in the middle of 2019, and attendance has improved.

5.4.4 Each senior member of staff was allocated a protected characteristic group, but action seemed to be slow on doing any work on these. Recently a new initiative, with new leadership, was launched under the name IDEAL (inclusion, diversity, equality, access, leaders) and it is hoped that this will lead to improvements. The Board will be monitoring this closely as it has had ongoing concerns with equality.

5.4.5 The kitchen continues to make significant efforts, not only to provide daily halal options, but also to meet other religious dietary requirements. Special food was supplied for religious festivals such as Christmas, Ramadan and Eid, as well as other events such as the Black History Week. The catering academy provided a lovely lunch for the Archbishop of York during Black History Week.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

5.5.1 As reported last year, the chaplaincy team has had to manage for some years without the leadership of a managing chaplain, and the Board has repeatedly asked the Governor to press for more funding. In March 2020, an experienced prison chaplain (ex-HMP Full Sutton) was finally appointed to the role of managing chaplain.

5.5.2 The team consists of one full-time managing chaplain, one full-time Anglican chaplain, one part-time Muslim chaplain (three days per week), one part-time Roman Catholic chaplain (four days per week) and one part-time Free Church chaplain (two days per week). There is also further cover based on one day per week for the Anglican, Sikh, Jewish and Pagan faiths. The prison currently has vacancies to cover the Buddhist, Rastafarian, Hindu and Mormon faiths. Each of the denominations conducts, under normal circumstances, a service once a week in one of the chapels within the establishment.

5.5.3 The chaplaincy continues to be heavily involved in the daily activity of the prison. The duty chaplain visits the segregation unit every day of the year. They participate in ACCT reviews, adjudications and bereavement counselling. It is the new managing chaplain's intention to try to develop more support from outside agencies and communities – for example, for those prisoners who may miss out on visits – and to support resettlement plans. He is also looking to become more involved in all areas of the prison, including healthcare and safer custody.

5.5.4 The Board reported last year that there was an initiative to consolidate the chaplaincy onto one site but it has been decided not to do so, for several reasons. There are a number of services, sometimes with fairly large attendances. The chaplaincy also conducts several different faith classes, and their facilities are sometimes used by the wider prison network.

5.6 Incentives and earned privileges

5.6.1 Following new guidance from the Prison Service in December 2019, the IEP policy was reviewed and published in January 2020. It clearly sets out the various levels of IEP and what behaviour is expected. The prison and Board feel that the IEP scheme is an opportunity to encourage good behaviour and should be used as an alternative to the already busy adjudication process. Early indications are that the process is now working better but the Board will monitor the situation.

5.6.2 COVID-19 operational guidance stated that because prisoners would be spending more time in their cells, no prisoner should be on basic privileges and all prisoners should have a television. The prison quickly undertook a review of all basic prisoners and reduced them from just under 9% of the prison population to 2.45%. These were reviewed weekly and, as of 23 March, only two prisoners (0.25%) were on basic.

5.6.3 However, the number on basic increased considerably in May, to 45 (5.66%) owing to the increase in drugs in the prison. These prisoners were allowed to keep their televisions.

5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 Following the Board's review of the complaints process in May 2019, the prison undertook its own review. This resulted in response times being reduced by one day and responses being passed to CMs at the morning meeting. The Board carried out a further review in May 2020 and found that, in the main, the complaints process worked well owing to its strict application by the clerk. The process did become strained in early 2020 because of a change in staff; deadlines were often missed and a lot of complaints went unanswered. Following the recruitment of a new member of staff, the situation greatly improved.

5.7.2 The Board feels that the prison appreciates the need for timely and relevant responses. However, we will continue to monitor the situation closely as resources within the finance hub are always tight and the position could easily deteriorate again.

5.7.3 The quality of the responses is generally good but some could be made easier for the prisoners to understand.

5.8 Property

5.8.1 The Prison Service's management of prisoners' property remains an issue, particularly on transfer of prisoners between prisons. The Board has received a number of applications where prisoners report that not all their property transferred with them, which is distressing for them. Occasionally the Board has contacted IMBs at other prisons to pursue complaints, which has been successful.

5.8.2 The handling of property in reception is good and the Board is impressed by the way it is managed and stored. There were some instances reported to the Board where a lack of staff in reception meant that it took some time for prisoners to receive their property from storage, but this has improved considerably.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare: general

6.1.1 Care UK holds the contract for healthcare services. This includes primary health, mental health and substance misuse. Psychosocial services, psychiatry and psychology services are sub-contracted through Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust. Also sub-contracted are: dental services, provided by Time for Teeth; physiotherapy and podiatry, provided by Premier Health; optical care, provided by Pen Optical; and X-ray and ultrasound, provided by Global Diagnostics.

6.1.2 The relationship between the prison and Care UK managers is generally good. The head of healthcare is involved in all relevant prison meetings, such as SMT and use of force. Mental health nurses attend all ACCT reviews and Rule 45 boards.

6.1.3 The Board has received a few applications about healthcare over the year, and on investigation has found that the prisoner has made a complaint but not received a reply. There seems to be no timescale for replying to healthcare complaints, and no one chases for responses. The Board would like to see the prison address this with Care UK.

6.2 Primary healthcare

6.2.1 Healthcare staff generally work 12.5-hour shifts, from 7am to 7.30pm. GP services are provided by a practice in nearby Wetherby. The 111 service is used for on-call GP services out of hours and at weekends.

6.2.2 Prisoner requests for appointments are made through healthcare applications, which are assessed on the same day they are received through nurse triage; waiting times are equivalent to those in the community. Between 70% and 75% of prisoners are on medication and a quarter of those are on methadone replacement.

6.2.3 Dental waiting times are comparable with those in the community and prisoners were generally seen within six weeks unless it is urgent. However, since

lockdown, dental appointments ceased and will recommence once restrictions are lifted.

6.2.4 Unfortunately, the level of non-attendance at appointments was high, exacerbated by the lack of escort staff. This has been addressed and the Board will monitor the position once lockdown measures are relaxed.

6.2.5 Another issue which the Board was aware of was that prisoners were not being notified of appointments as appointment slips were not being delivered. Changes were made to the process, and the problem seems to have been resolved.

6.3 Mental healthcare

6.3.1 The mental health service is integrated with the wider healthcare team and is situated near to the drug and alcohol recovery service (DARS). All prisoners are screened for mental health problems at reception, and onward referrals made. The Board has observed good interaction between mental health nurses and prisoners, especially at Rule 45 reviews, and the nurses have a good knowledge of their patients.

6.4 Social care

6.4.1 The prison has a process in place for ensuring that prisoners are assessed when there is a need for social care. However, there are very few prisoners requiring social care, mainly because of the age profile of the prison population (very few are over 50 years old), but also because of a lack of suitable accommodation for disabled prisoners and the absence of inpatient healthcare facilities and 24-hour nursing cover. The Board is aware of one case during the reporting year which was handled well. The prisoner received support from another prisoner in managing day-to-day needs.

6.5 Exercise, time out of cell, gym

6.5.1 There are good facilities for exercise in the establishment, with two well-equipped gyms that prisoners can use. There is also a football pitch but this has been out of use for some time. As part of the young person strategy, it was agreed to reopen the football pitch to provide more activities for prisoners under the age of 30, who represent a third of the prison population and are the most unsettled. However, lockdown has put this on hold.

6.5.2 For the first six months of the reporting year, the level of staffing allowed a full regime to be run most of the time. However, prisoners not in work or on the basic level of the IEP scheme had limited time out of their cells.

6.5.3 From November 2019, the regime was curtailed on a regular basis because managers had been allowed to recruit over their headcount, leaving insufficient funds available for the remainder of the year, and officers were therefore sent on detached duty to make savings. The outcome was that the regime was curtailed from 7 November (on 10 weekdays) through to December (1 on 0 weekdays), one day in January and in February (on 10 weekdays) and March (on seven weekdays). The prison was split in half, with the old prison (A, B, C and D wings) alternating with newer wings (E, F, G, H, I and J wings) for a single morning or afternoon of the education/work regime, which was unacceptable; however, things were overtaken by

the lockdown from March owing to the pandemic.

6.5.4 Temporary measures were introduced throughout the establishment after lockdown. These measures included a new core day, where prisoners were locked up for 23.5 hours per day, allowing for 30 minutes of exercise and a shower (unless they were still required to work in the kitchens, for example). All prisoners were placed in single cell accommodation, and through a national initiative, were provided with daily comfort packs of drinks, crisps and chocolate. All prisoners have had in-cell telephones, with increased hours of use, and televisions. Remote monitoring by the Board did not indicate any prisoners being unhappy with the very restricted regime. This may be because prisoners were aware that restrictions were also in place for the general population, and the degree of contentment with prison lockdown may change once restrictions are removed for the general population as Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service is slow to relax restrictions in prisons. The Board will monitor this closely.

6.5.5 Reverse cohort units were set up in two of the smaller wings to accommodate new receptions or transfers-in for a period of 14 days, to detect any emergent infectious cases before they entered the general prison population. Their regime was the same as for other prisoners with daily access to exercise and showers.

6.6 Drug rehabilitation

6.6.1 The incentivised substance-free living unit was set up in D wing in April 2019 for prisoners who wanted to stop using drugs. However, it became obvious that the unit was not working as drugs were still available. The size of the wing was identified as an issue and the prison was in the process of moving the unit to a smaller wing when lockdown began. They are revisiting the processes for selecting and deselecting prisoners for participation, testing and additional incentives.

6.6.2 DARS works closely with the mental health team. It has a large caseload, which it manages well. It runs a course on drug awareness, which prisoners can attend if they are found to be under the influence, and their adjudication award would be suspended. DARS works with St Giles Trust and OMU and has good links with community drugs teams.

6.6.3 Approximately 20% of prisoners are on opiate substitution treatment. Daily clinics are held to administer the treatment.

6.7 Soft skills

6.7.1 The Jigsaw Charity, which supports visitors, is important in Wealstun. It offers support, advice and practical help with family issues, meeting families and visitors before social visits on Monday to Thursday, running a homework club and a 10-session accredited parenting course three times a year, among other things. It works with restorative justice and family mediation. Funding has been found for sessions with schools, after successful pilots, to explain to school staff how to deal with the children of prisoners in custody. There is an 'inclusion unit family learning kitchen', which so impressed one Board member that, following his sudden death in August 2019, his family asked for gifts for it in his memory, raising £1,800. The kitchen has

been improved and is almost finished. Plans for a formal opening, attended by the late member's widow, await the safe return to normal. There is a long waiting list for the parenting course, which could be shortened if more funding was available from the prison.

6.7.2 In 2019, the safer custody department began running a weekly self-harm support group, called Time Out, for vulnerable prisoners and prolific self-harmers. Generally, these prisoners were not working and this gave them the opportunity to get out of their cell, interact with others in a safe environment and learn skills which may help them to cope better with prison life.

6.7.3 The programmes team and the University of York developed the problem support mentor scheme, where prisoners are trained to support other prisoners.

6.7.4 Members of the Board were able to observe the work of another support group, Good Vibrations, during a rota visit. Prisoners were rehearsing music for a performance later in the week, playing percussion instruments and gamelans. The charity and observers noticed how prisoners were gradually becoming creative and self-disciplined as they listened to each other for cues. They all seemed to be enjoying the sessions.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

7.1.1 Novus continues to supply education services. There are 38 staff in English, mathematics, art, information and communications technology, and workshops like bricklaying.

7.1.2 When prisoners arrive for education, assessment and planning are hampered by the absence of up-to-date records (even from exam boards like Edexcel), the imposition of short sentences by courts and their lack of functional skills. Diagnostic assessment gives prisoners learning plans from induction. Sentence length is looked at carefully, in case art and social skills sessions, which last for six weeks, might be appropriate.

7.1.3 The imposition of the CURIOUS record-keeping system by the Prison Service caused initial complications for many months until it became settled. Thus, the following data provided by Novus should be treated with caution.

2019-20 (CURIOUS data only)	Success rate
Department overall	92.3%
Functional English	77.27%
Functional mathematics	85%

7.1.4 Numerous regime curtailments from November 2019 to March 2020 created problems. Prisoners' motivation and behaviour suffered as the regime changed from day to day. They did not know whether they would be able to complete work for deadlines or before their sentence was completed. Many of them lost their ability to retain knowledge because of the lack of continuity. Many were withdrawn from the course as they were unable to complete it in the given time.

7.1.5 Shannon Trust work (peers teaching prisoners to read) and all education stopped completely at lockdown. Education staff worked from home, providing distraction packs, updating their own training and development, and creating teaching resources. No learning or assessment took place for the prisoners. While the Board understands the reasons behind this, there has been no progression for prisoners, which is unacceptable.

7.1.6 The library service had no management for several months, so new books had to be ordered through HMP Leeds, which delayed them for weeks. Problems with the distribution of books between the five prison libraries was a further consequence of staff unavailability, as some of the libraries were unable to open. Since a new manager was appointed, extra activities, such as origami crafting, the 'Six-Book Challenge' and work with the Dogs Trust, have resumed.

7.1.7 During lockdown, a trolley, pushed by officers, was sent to each wing to collect orders and distribute books during domestic time.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 Up to March 2020 and lockdown, an average of 11 prison industrial workshops were in operation. The laundry was eventually reopened in late 2019 following refurbishment and is running well. The catering academy, called 'the mess', sells sandwiches and lunches to staff and provides for meetings and conferences. It did have too many learners but numbers have now been reduced to 10 in the kitchen and eight in front of house.

7.2.2 Since lockdown on 24 March, workshops providing essential services have remained open, including sewing machine repair, laundry, industrial cleaning, beverage packing and kitchen. Additionally, the textiles workshop was deemed essential as it provides clothing for prisoners. They all had a reduced number of prisoners working in them, in order to comply with social distancing. All the other workshops were closed, as they were considered non-essential. The Board was surprised to find that output at workshops increased during lockdown, even though there were fewer prisoners working. Apparently, the smaller numbers meant that they were more focused and there was less disruption.

7.2.3 Although there were sufficient spaces for all prisoners, attendance was limited due to the lack of staff and the need to curtail regimes on a regular basis (see section 6.5).

7.2.4 Four cohorts each year work towards the Construction Skills Certificate Scheme, with 16 learners at a time preparing for the tests over seven to 10 days. A bus comes for a day to administer the test to participants. There is a success rate of 87.5%. It is a popular option but expensive for the prison. Board members were in Wealstun on the day of the test in December, and heard from trainers of the stress and nervousness of the participants.

7.3 Offender management, progression

7.3.1 The offender assessment system (OASys) report assesses the risks associated with, and the needs of, offenders in order to prevent reoffending. Despite the OMU being fully staffed, there is a legacy of OASys assessment backlogs during the period covered by this report. This is in part due to many prisoners arriving at Wealstun with a badly completed initial OASys assessment. Furthermore, some prisoners' OASys assessments are not regularly updated, so their current behaviour in prison is not being accurately accounted for. This can have an impact on their sentence progress and, potentially, the outcome of any parole hearing. The OMU is focusing on reducing the backlogs and improving the quality of the assessments. The Board will monitor the pursuit of this closely.

7.3.2 The second stage of the OMiC model, which is replacing the community rehabilitation companies (CRCs), has been implemented in Wealstun, along with the introduction of prison offender managers (POMs). POMs are assigned to high-risk prisoners, who at the end of 2019 accounted for about 45% of the prison population. At the end of the current period, there were 6.5 full-time-equivalent POMs.

7.3.3 The Board has received complaints from prisoners who are frustrated that they do not have adequate contact with their POM. Furthermore, POMs have to cover staff shortages in other areas of the establishment. POMs are also charged with finalising the categorisation process. This normally happens promptly, although transfers to other prisons can take several months, for a number of reasons. The Board has received a number of applications from prisoners waiting for moves to open prisons but there is no available space.

7.3.4 The majority of the prison population are considered low risk, so do not have an assigned prison probation officer. The CRC should contact prisoners six months before release but they have had problems in meeting this requirement. During the period covered by this report, the Board received complaints from prisoners about the failure of their community probation officers to contact them, despite their release date being imminent.

7.3.5 Resolve is the main accredited offending behaviour programme offered in the prison, designed to help prisoners control their violence. This well-attended programme aims to reduce reoffending assessed as high risk. However, the abuse and domestic violence courses have been stopped owing to a lack of funding. It is hoped that funding for these can be found, as a significant number of prisoners have a history of domestic violence.

7.3.6 In March 2020, the Board undertook a review of prisoners serving life sentences ('lifers') and IPP sentences. Almost all of the 35 IPP prisoners had been released but subsequently recalled to prison, and most were over-tariff. There were 19 lifers.

7.3.7 Access to accredited offending behaviour programmes for IPP prisoners and lifers is generally limited, and so can reduce the chances of release by the parole board. Kaizen is the accredited offending behaviour programme tailored for male prisoners assessed as being high or very high risk, and includes courses that address issues such as violent behaviour. However, some of the courses are not available at Wealstun, so IPP prisoners have to be referred to other prisons. Referral usually takes at least six months, due to a lack of places and transport. One lifer was segregated for nearly 100 days, as a suitable prison to enable him to progress could not be found.

7.3.8 Every IPP prisoner is assigned to a probation officer inside the prison. Separately, the community probation officer is responsible for risk management planning and advising prisoners due for release on their licence conditions and resettlement arrangements. Not all IPP prisoners in Wealstun have a community probation officer. Normally, a community probation officer is appointed before the parole board case review. Often, they have little knowledge of the prisoner and have had no previous contact with him, and this usually leads to them trying to gather information from the probation officer and health professionals inside the prison.

7.3.9 There used to be a monthly forum for IPP prisoners, lifers and OMU staff. This proved to be a productive space, where these prisoners could express their needs and problems. Unfortunately, these were terminated during 2019. If IPP prisoners

and lifers continue to be located in Wealstun, the prison should reintroduce this forum, as it gives them a chance to meet and discuss issues relevant to them. The Board is concerned that IPP prisoners and lifers are located at Wealstun, where access to relevant programmes is limited and the processes necessary to manage them do not seem to be working.

7.3.10 After lockdown, OMU staffing was reduced considerably. However, considerable work was required to determine whether any prisoners could be released under the early release scheme or special purpose scheme, with little to show in the end as no prisoners met the necessary requirements. The lockdown has also caused distress to a number of prisoners who have been recategorised to category D but could not be transferred to an open prison because no transfers were taking place.

7.4 Family contact

7.4.1 All prisoners now have access to in-cell telephones and the cost of calls has reduced. Following lockdown, prisoners were given a £5 weekly PIN credit and were able to add extra from their private spend. The telephones were also available for longer each day.

7.4.2 The booking of visits has run smoothly, as have the visits themselves. Following lockdown, all visits were cancelled; work has taken place to allow them to restart safely once this is agreed. The number of visitors will be limited.

7.4.3 The visits hall is bright and clean, and there is a shop which sells refreshments. However, the Board was surprised to find that the cost of refreshments in the visits hall was higher than in the staff mess. The prison's response was that this was regional policy. The Board considers this to be unacceptable, as a large number of visitors are probably in receipt of benefits.

7.4.4 Family days are run regularly and enjoyed by prisoners, visitors and staff.

7.5 Resettlement planning

7.5.1 During the period covered by this report, West Yorkshire CRC was responsible for the 'through-the-gate' service, aimed at reducing reoffending and supporting prisoners during resettlement after release. The CRC provided only two case workers, which the prison thought was insufficient. The CRC is responsible for identifying the prisoner's needs and assessing risk prior to release. St Giles Trust played an important role helping prisoners complete their resettlement plan before release. Prisoners were seen 12 weeks prior to release and received support mainly with housing and debt. Although no prisoner should have been released without accommodation during the lockdown, at times 50% of prisoners were referred to the emergency housing service on release. This continues to be a big issue, with some prisoners still not having accommodation on release.

7.5.2 The prison does not provide pre-release courses, although it is continuing to organise a monthly resettlement hub event for prisoners due to be released within eight weeks. During this event, various resettlement organisations, such as Jobcentre Plus, St Giles Trust and Novus, attend and give information and advice to prisoners. Owing to the pandemic, the resettlement hub meetings have been

suspended. The Board will monitor the prompt reintroduction of the resettlement hub meetings when lockdown eases, as this is an important step for prisoners prior to their release.

8. The work of the IMB

8.1 The Board currently comprises eight members. Three new members have been recruited and are due to take up post in June 2020. Despite the small number of members, all core duties were performed: weekly rota visits, applications and monthly Board meetings. Weekly rota visits continue to take place, following a system which reflects the scale and variety of areas visited and the need to record members' findings effectively and objectively. All prisoners in segregation are spoken to and all prisoner applications are answered, speaking to the prisoners themselves where possible. In addition, open ACCT documents on the wings visited are checked for completeness and accuracy, to ensure that the process is being followed, and ACCT reviews are attended. Such activities brought members of the Board into direct contact with prisoners and staff alike. A Board meeting is held each month, which the Governor or a member of the SMT attends, and where serious concerns that have been identified during our visits are raised.

8.2 However, since the lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, no members have been visiting the prison, and monitoring has been conducted remotely. The Board receives copies of the daily operations briefings and other relevant information. There are weekly calls with the Governor, which are minuted. Arrangements are in place for members to telephone wings and other key functions weekly and join Rule 45 reviews by telephone.

8.3 Applications are currently collected and scanned by the clerk, and the Board's responses are provided through the 'email-a-prisoner' scheme. The number of applications for the reporting year is not directly comparable to the previous year's; no direct monitoring took place from lockdown in March 2020 and the regime was very restricted, with prisoners only having 30 minutes out of their cell each day.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the establishment	192
Total number of segregation reviews attended	186

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	4	2
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	7	2
C	Equality	0	0
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	13	10
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	7	13
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	1	1
F	Food and kitchens	4	8
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	13	20
H1	Property within this establishment	28	20
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	21	27
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	1	5
I	Sentence management, including home detention curfew, ROTL, parole, release dates, recategorisation	25	28
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	31	27
K	Transfers	11	5
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	21	22
	Total number of applications	187	190



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