



# Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP/YOI Sudbury

**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 Sudbury is an open category D male and young offenders resettlement prison, with a certified normal accommodation of up to 581 prisoners. The actual roll fluctuates during the working week as prisoners leave during the day, to work and support the local community, or are temporarily released at weekends to reintegrate into family life. Owing to changes in the transfer of prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number verified on the roll at the end of this reporting period had fallen to 460.

2.2 The prison is in a rural location and is surrounded by open farmland, with a major arterial road a short distance away. The long perimeter fence and the open nature of the establishment present a number of challenges for the safety and security of the prison. The installation of closed-circuit television has helped mitigate some of these problems.

2.3 The prison holds a complex group of people, including older and disabled prisoners, as well as an increasing number of young adult prisoners. It carefully

manages the risk associated with such prisoners being held in an open prison, with risk assessment being a core part of day-to-day management.

2.4 The buildings were originally a United States Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during World War II. Most of the original single-storey accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished, and in some instances replaced, to provide single and double rooms. Additional accommodation has been provided in recent years, and there are plans to install five temporary accommodation pods, to allow increased isolation space during the COVID-19 epidemic, providing 80 units, 70 of which will be used for single accommodation. There is a small secure office.

2.5 The wings were originally built as temporary structures which were not intended to last for more than 70 years, and as a consequence are difficult and expensive to maintain.

2.6 Healthcare services are provided by Care UK; the community rehabilitation company contract is delivered through Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland; and the maintenance contract is with Amey. Education is delivered by PeoplePlus.

2.7 The main voluntary sector providers of services are the Shannon Trust and the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT).

### **3. Executive summary**

#### **3.1 Background to the report**

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on the Board's ability to gather information and discuss the contents of this annual 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. Regular information is being collected specifically on the prison's response to the pandemic, and that is being collated nationally.

#### **3.2 Main judgements**

##### **How safe is the prison?**

Overall, the prison provides a safe environment. The level of risk in the prison is regularly reported as low. The number of incidents of self-harm is below average for the estate, and assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) cases are well supported by the mental health team (see paragraphs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2). The number of violent incidents is also low (see paragraph 4.3.1).

##### **How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?**

For the year covered in this report, there have been no disproportionate trends identified relating to equality and diversity issues (see paragraph 5.3.1). Under normal circumstances, most prisoners benefit from earned enhanced status under the incentives policy (see paragraph 5.5.2). Some prisoners with mobility issues struggle to access some areas because of the nature of the site (see paragraph 6.3.2).

## **How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?**

In general, the prison meets the health and wellbeing needs of prisoners. The healthcare team continues to provide a wide range of clinics (see paragraph 6.2.1). Before the imposition of lockdown, prisoners were able to access nurse-led individual cognitive behavioural therapy, as well as group sessions for sleep therapy, anxiety management, depression and self-harm, and assertiveness (see paragraph 6.2.3). Prisoners benefited from a number of events offering information on services that they could access, both while at Sudbury and on discharge, and report subsequently making use of these services for themselves or their family (see paragraph 6.3.1).

## **How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?**

This has been a difficult year for resettlement planning, as the process has been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 lockdown. Until early March, the prison had an excellent record for supporting outworking with a wide range of local businesses (see section 7.5). Education services have been struggling for most of this reporting year, following the change of provider (see paragraph 7.1.1). In January, one of the two main education buildings was flooded and the education computer servers were badly damaged. During the COVID-19 period, classroom lessons stopped and staff were withdrawn (see paragraph 7.1.6). On a more positive note, the prison commits significant resources to supporting family ties (see section 7.4) and securing accommodation for prisoners on release (see paragraph 7.5.4).

### **3.3 Main areas for development**

#### ***TO THE MINISTER***

Given the ongoing threat to prisoner safety posed by COVID-19, will the minister produce a more robust policy on early release under licence?

Given the expectation that COVID-19 or similar new diseases are likely to pose problems for prisons in the medium to long term, are there plans to fund the extension of single room provision on a more permanent basis?

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

What measures are proposed to ensure that the return of probation services to the public sector will be managed more smoothly than the privatisation, which led to huge disruption in release on temporary licence (ROTL) planning for many prisoners?

#### ***TO THE GOVERNOR***

Will the temporary single accommodation introduced as part of the COVID-19 measures be fully accessible?

Prisoners with physical and mental health disabilities are sometimes disadvantaged, in terms of accessing employment and educational opportunities within the prison. How does the prison plan to address this?

### **3.4 Progress since the last report**

Almost one-quarter of the reporting year covered in this report has fallen under the COVID-19 lockdown. This makes it impossible to assess progress since the last report, as much apparently promising work has been put on hold. However, problems in education provision, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, were noted and recorded by Board members following the change of contract. This is particularly disappointing for a prison which focuses on resettlement. Until the situation in the prison returns to some kind of normal, and monitoring visits can resume, no further judgement can be made in relation to progress between June 2019 and May 2020.

## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

#### **4.1 Reception and induction**

4.1.1 Prisoners arrive in good physical condition, usually following a reasonable journey. Reception and induction processes are carried out carefully and include a health needs assessment. Working one-to-one with prisoners, staff point out what can make a prisoner vulnerable and explain how to get help.

4.1.2 Reception orderlies go through the induction booklet with new arrivals, making a valued contribution to the orientation process, particularly for prisoners who have not previously experienced open conditions.

4.1.3 For most of the reporting year, and as in previous years, the new arrivals spent at least their first night on a designated induction wing. The wing is secure and has trained orderlies to provide support. The prisoner information desk (PID) was located nearby and run by trained orderlies. The prison has made a number of changes to the accommodation arrangements as a part of the COVID-19 precautions. New arrivals have subsequently been located on other wings following a 14-day period of self-isolation spent at their previous prison. The Board understands that staff are carrying out regular support checks on the new arrivals, particularly during the first 24 hours. Although the PID has been closed as a part of the accommodation changes, the prison has made alternative sources of information and forms available to prisoners.

#### **4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody**

4.2.1 the number of self-harm incidents is consistently very low, and well below the national average. The average number of ACCTs opened is two per month, and staff report that the majority of ACCTs and self-harm incidents relate to threats – for example, prisoners threatening to take an overdose, head banging. Many are instigated when there is a pending transfer back to the closed estate.

4.2.2 The health and social care needs assessment (HSCNA) in March 2020 found that attendance and input into ACCT reviews by the mental health team were good. This is also the opinion of the Board, having observed reviews and checked the relevant documentation.

4.2.3 During the reporting year, there were two deaths in custody at the prison. One occurred in hospital and, although the patient tested positive for COVID-19, the cause of death has not been verified; the second occurred within the prison and has been referred to the relevant investigatory bodies. The cause of death is unknown at the time of writing this report.

4.2.4 The prison has a small team of trained peer Listeners, and Samaritans telephones are also available.

#### **4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation**

4.3.1 The incidence of violence is low compared with the general prison estate. During the reporting year, there were four prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, two of which were serious, and two prisoner-on-staff assaults, one of which was serious. The prison records and investigates all incidents of violence. Action is taken where the perpetrators are identified, and proactive measures are put in place, including challenge, support and intervention plans.

4.3.2 The safer custody team provides a confidential safer custody telephone line which can be called by prisoners or people in the community at any time. The Board has noted that since the COVID-19 outbreak, there have been several calls from relatives of prisoners. The daily reports, where available to the Board, document these calls and the steps that staff take to ensure that prisoners are supported appropriately.

#### **4.4 Use of force**

4.4.1 The Board considers that the use of force has been proportionate to the operation of an open prison, with the majority of incidents arising on a planned basis, for movement to the secure accommodation unit. It is generally limited to the use of ratchet handcuffs.

#### **4.5 Substance misuse**

4.5.1 All prisoners are seen on a one-to-one basis on arrival and given information on the substance misuse service, including how to access support.

4.5.2 There is a lower incidence of substance misuse, including alcohol, than in comparator prisons (HSCNA, March 2020), with cocaine and cannabis being the most common substances used.

4.5.3 The prison operates a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol, and prisoners are randomly tested on return from ROTL and work. Prisoners have access to the weekly visiting fellowship group Alcoholics Anonymous, which is well attended.

4.5.4 During the reporting year, the Board has witnessed good collaborative working between staff from all sections of the prison in relation to prisoners who may be struggling mentally and who may revert to using contraband substances.

### **5. Fair and humane treatment**

#### **5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food**

5.1.1 During the period covered by this report, there has been a comprehensive, planned and much needed set of improvements to the residential area of the prison. These are mostly undertaken by the prison projects team, overseen by qualified staff.

5.1.2 All the dormitory kitchens have been refitted and redecorated. The provision of toasters and microwave ovens has been greatly welcomed by the prisoners, who now have an enhanced facility to prepare hot snacks. Each wing has a dedicated wing cleaner who is responsible for the cleanliness of the communal facilities, and these are checked by staff at regular intervals to ensure acceptable standards.

5.1.3 The induction area has benefited from new furniture, signage and decor. A small shop facility has been provided in the induction area for new admissions, so that they are able to access canteen as soon as they enter the prison, thus reducing the risk of debt on admission.

5.1.4 Listeners meet all the new admissions in the reception area, to offer them support. Peer mentors are available on the dedicated admission wing. A Samaritans telephone is available and there are dedicated private facilities available for the use of Listeners. During the COVID-19 crisis, there is a telephone line that relatives can use to leave important messages.

5.1.5 The secure accommodation unit (SAU) has been redecorated, and new signage installed. Various areas around the prison have been decorated during the lockdown period, with the projects team heavily involved. Porches at the end of the wings have been replaced.

5.1.6 The food served remains of a good standard, and is regularly tasted by Board members. A comment and concern book is regularly monitored by the Board. All comments are also monitored by the catering department. COVID-19 has prevented a prisoners' catering feedback group from meeting. These meetings were monitored by the Board and were generally positive. The catering team has also reduced the amount of plastic being used by making changes to the way prisoners collect their breakfast packs. Further work is being undertaken on this financial and environmental saving initiative, which is supported by staff and prisoners alike.

5.1.7 Special food is provided during religious festivals (see also paragraph 5.4.4). This service has continued during the COVID-19 lockdown, to the best of the department's ability. Until the introduction of lockdown, the dining room also served as a recreation area. During food service, the area is generally reasonably clean and tidy.

5.1.8 The Board has not received any applications relating to food.

## **5.2 Segregation, special accommodation**

5.2.1 Sudbury does not have a segregation unit.

5.2.2 The prison has a secure accommodation unit (SAU), which is used to locate prisoners during room searches, before adjudications, or immediately prior to their return to closed conditions when the risk of absconding is high. It is located separately from the wings. The facilities include two basic cells and a holding room. There is also a room which is used for adjudications. The SAU is only suitable for use as a short-term holding facility because there is no access to an exercise area.

5.2.3 The SAU is seen as a place of safety by some prisoners, who ask to be located there owing to concerns about their personal safety or mental health. A small number of new arrivals also find it difficult to cope with the change from closed to open conditions, and ask for access to the SAU.

5.2.4 It is unusual for a prisoner to be detained in the SAU for longer than 24 hours. There has not been a requirement to hold a segregation review board within the reporting year.

5.2.5 The Board believes that prisoners are treated humanely and with respect. A member of the healthcare team carries out a health screen with each new arrival and food/refreshments are made available. The staff also ask the prisoners if they would like to speak to a Listener.

5.2.6 Prior to the changes to the prison regime due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Board had been notified within 24 hours of new arrivals on the SAU. Since the lockdown, the notification period has been longer on some occasions, reflecting the extraordinary circumstances faced by the establishment.

5.2.7 The Board has not received any complaints from prisoners about the operation of the SAU during the reporting year.

5.2.8 During the reporting year, 804 adjudication hearings have taken place and 281 prisoners were transferred back to closed conditions. Prior to the decision to suspend monitoring visits, members of the Board attended a random sample of hearings and found that the process had been fair and carried out properly.

### **5.3 Equality and diversity**

5.3.1 The prison equalities team analyses and reviews discrimination incident report forms (DIRFs), incentives policy (IP) reviews, adjudications and transfers to closed prisons against the protected characteristics, such as age and ethnicity. For the year covered in this report, there have been no disproportionate trends identified relating to equality and diversity issues.

5.3.2 The prison has a senior member of staff with the role of equalities and engagement lead.

5.3.3 In the reporting year, 27 DIRFs were submitted – one prisoner against prisoner, 20 prisoner against staff/prison and six staff against prisoner. Fifteen complaints related to race, five to religion and belief, six to disability and one to age. Seven are currently outstanding.

### **5.4 Faith and pastoral support**

5.4.1 The chaplaincy department has a full-time managing chaplain who is an imam, supported by various chaplains of other faiths: Anglican, Free Church, Catholic, Sikh, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witness and Pagan. The Rastafarian chaplaincy role is vacant at this present time.

5.4.2 Worship is conducted in either a well-maintained chapel building or a purpose-built multi-faith centre. Services for all faiths are conducted on a regular basis. A member of the Board attends occasional Sunday services and has observed other faith services.

5.4.3 The department performs all essential chaplaincy duties, visits to the SAU, counselling services and provides general support to prisoners of all faiths or none. Bereavement assistance is available for all prisoners.

5.4.4 All faiths are supported by the catering department, and festivals are celebrated, with an emphasis on the dietary requirements linked to them.

5.4.5 During the present COVID-19 situation, some of the staff have been able to attend the prison and have been able to provide for the prisoners' spiritual needs. Other chaplains have worked to provide support on a remote basis.

5.4.6 It is fair to say that the department has continued to function as well as is practically possible in these unprecedented times.

## **5.5 Incentives and earned privileges (IP)**

5.5.1 A new IP framework was introduced in January. It involves points being issued for negative behaviours, adjudications, IP warnings and poor work effort, and this triggers a review. Loss of privileges can affect having a single room and ROTL.

5.5.2 Most prisoners at the establishment benefit from earned enhanced status under the IP scheme; those who do not are supported and encouraged to gain enhanced status.

## **5.6 Complaints**

5.6.1 The year-to-date analysis of complaints applied by the prison matches the financial year, whereas this report runs from June to May, so the trends identified here are based on two separate data sets.

5.6.2 The four most common areas for complaint in 2019/20 were: property, offender management issues, ROTL, and recategorisation. In the first two months of this financial year, property continued to be a major concern.

5.6.3 Complaints are broken down by wing, and the distribution generally varied from zero to 25 from April to March, with the exception of two wings with regular complainants, one of which recorded a total of 48 complaints in two months – 45 from one individual. It is too early to analyse the breakdown of complaints by wing for April and May, as there has been a large amount of movement between wings to establish isolation spaces for prisoners with COVID-19 symptoms

5.6.4 Of 534 stage 1 complaints received over the last financial year, only 72 were taken to the next level by prisoners dissatisfied with the initial response. In the first two months of this financial year, 35 stage 1 complaints have been received, of which five have been escalated to stage 2. This suggests that the level of escalation has remained constant over the Board reporting year.

5.6.5 A breakdown of complaints by ethnicity of complainant shows that 58% of complaints come from white British prisoners, who make up 55% of the Sudbury population.

## **5.7 Property**

5.7.1 Complaints relating to property between April 2019 and March 2020 constituted on average of 34% of all complaints received, running at around 16 complaints each month. There were 22 property-related complaints in April and May 2020.

5.7.2 About one in three of external property complaints were upheld in the period between April 2019 and March 2020.

5.7.3 It is possible that the preponderance of shared accommodation at Sudbury increases the risk that not all property can be identified when a prisoner is transferred, particularly where items were not included on the property list.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Physical healthcare**

6.1.1 Much of the information contained in this section has been obtained from the HSCNA, which was commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement, and published in March 2020. The assessment was undertaken to assess the extent to which the current need and demand for health and social care in the prison was being met. Their findings were benchmarked against four category D and three category C prisons.

6.1.2 Since the introduction of the COVID-19 measures, the Board has received regular updates on the delivery of healthcare services. These have confirmed that healthcare staff have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and have been able to meet the health needs of the prisoners. Working practices have altered to ensure compliance with government guidelines. The department has worked with senior staff to identify those prisoners who need to be shielded or isolated, or who are classed as vulnerable, and has identified ways in which they can be safely managed. Healthcare staff are meeting the increase in demand from prisoners who need additional support relating to both their physical and their mental health during this unprecedented time.

6.1.3 Care UK has been the lead healthcare provider since April 2016, subcontracting services out to other agencies such as Time for Teeth and Premier Therapies.

6.1.4 The healthcare team has seen the appointment of new GPs in this reporting year. It is the experience of the Board that healthcare staff cope well with the ever-changing staffing levels, and raise concern with their employer where there are shortfalls. The recruitment of GPs is difficult for all prisons, and those who are appointed need to be supported, especially if they are new to working within a custodial setting. The HSCNA makes a recommendation that GPs are supported to ensure consistency of practice and professional development.

6.1.5 The wellbeing lead, who has now been replaced in the management structure by a non-operational manager, had responsibility for the kitchens, and much collaborative work has been undertaken to improve prison diets, including a reduction in the salt content and the introduction of a salad bar. It is envisaged that more work will be undertaken to deliver an improved diabetic service that is comparable to that received in the community.

6.1.6 The Board receives very few negative comments about healthcare, and those received tend to be related to the refusal by healthcare staff to support applications for single accommodation or change of work where there is no clinical need identified.

6.1.7 The healthcare team strives to promote individual responsibility for health and wellbeing, and to support prisoners in preparation for release and resettlement. Despite lower staffing levels alongside comparator prisons, the team continues to provide a wide range of clinics. Waiting times to see a GP is, on average, one week but access can be on the same day if clinically indicated when attending the daily triage clinic. The prisoners may also be referred directly to the local hospital if clinically needed.

6.1.8 There has been a decrease in the number of prisoners having 'in possession' medication. This, according to the HSCNA findings, arises from a combination of a lower number of pharmacists than normal in comparator prisons, and the pharmacist requiring advice/support from the GP. The HSCNA also reported a higher rate of prescribing of tradable medications such as pregabalin. The HSCNA figures reflect the period when the assessment was undertaken. As the Board was aware of the work that the healthcare team had done in reviewing all prisoners on tradable medication, they questioned this result and are pleased to report that, at the time of writing, the number of pregabalin prescriptions averages only four to five per month.

6.1.9 Despite initiatives to improve the 'did not attend' (DNA) rates, these remain higher than in comparator prisons. The HSCNA reported an average DNA rate across primary care clinics of 18%, which is also above the rate determined in the NHS England specification. DNA rates, as reported in previous years, are notoriously difficult to improve and while there is currently a complement of health champions, this changes as they gain external employment or are released.

## **6.2 Mental healthcare**

6.2.1 Forty-one per cent of the prison population was recorded as having a mental health diagnosis, with almost 30% being diagnosed since admission to the establishment. Depression and anxiety are the most common conditions diagnosed.

6.2.2 Urgent referrals are usually seen within two days and there is a weekly meeting to discuss the management of those prisoners with complex mental health needs.

6.2.3 Prisoners are able to access nurse-led individual cognitive behavioural therapy, as well as group sessions for sleep therapy, anxiety management, depression and self-harm, and assertiveness. A psychologist is currently being recruited and it is planned that the mental health provision at Sudbury will be equivalent to that provided in a community setting, as additional services such as counselling and psychological interventions will also be accessible.

## **6.3 Social care**

6.3.1 There is a very good relationship with the social work team. Referrals to them are usually instigated by the healthcare team but individuals can also self-refer. There have been many initiatives set up by the equality lead, including several events that prisoners were able to attend to find out more about the services available to them at Sudbury and on discharge. All those who attended said that they

found the sessions very informative, and went on to access some of the services for themselves or their family.

6.3.2 Prisoners with mobility issues have reported to members of the Board that they struggle to access areas because of the nature of the site. They are often reliant on 'buddies' for collection of meals and bedding and so forth, as well as for getting from their room to other locations. Work provision can also be problematic, depending on the nature of their disability. At the time of writing this report, 34 prisoners have been identified as having a personal emergency evacuation plan in place for a variety of reasons, including poor mobility, a visual impairment, a hearing impairment or a long-term health condition.

#### **6.4 Exercise, time out of cell, gym**

6.4.1 The prisoners are not locked in cells. They can leave their rooms during the day to attend work, the dining hall, and for indoor and outdoor recreation. At certain times of the day, they can walk and run around large areas of the site, use outdoor exercise equipment and go to the gym.

6.4.2 There are two football pitches that are in use, and a cricket square that has been out of use for a long time. Other recreational activities include snooker, table tennis and darts.

6.4.3 From August, there were 'parkruns' every Saturday morning. The times are recorded into the official parkrun results database. These stopped during the COVID-19 period.

6.4.4 There is a well-equipped gym and sports hall, with adequate staffing. There are educational posters showing how literacy and numeracy skills are used in sport – for example, scoring, distance, time, weight and vocabulary.

6.4.5 Prisoners can book up to five sessions a week in the gym in their spare time. There is a wide range of sporting activities on offer, including badminton and five-a-side football in the sports hall. The gym runs level 2 gym instructor courses and facilitates remedial exercise prescribed by the healthcare department.

6.4.6 Activities offered through the sports hall are inclusive, with a weekly programme of games, including bowls and table tennis, being offered to attract prisoners who do not wish to use gym equipment.

6.4.7 During the COVID-19 period, the gym and sports hall have closed, but there was an outdoor activity programme delivered to small numbers of prisoners from the same dormitory which included a 'community run'. The prisoners were permitted to walk and run around the grounds, maintaining social distance, throughout the day.

#### **6.5 Drug rehabilitation**

6.5.1 The substance misuse team is notified weekly of upcoming release dates, and pre-release appointments are made to discuss and arrange follow-up appointments with a community-based local drug intervention programme. Where prisoners are receiving opioid substitution therapy, healthcare staff will send a prescription to the local service, to provide continuity of prescribing and support. The service is

supported by two peer mentors, who have been trained by St Giles Trust. As well as supporting group delivery, they have set up a monthly recovery café for prisoners to attend on a drop-in basis and receive support.

6.5.2 Naloxone is offered to prisoners on release, but the uptake is low.

## **6.6 Soft skills**

6.6.1 The prison has a senior member of staff with the role of head of wellbeing.

6.6.2 There have been some wellbeing events involving visiting organisations setting up stalls in the visits hall. There was a one-day mindfulness workshop in May and there were yoga sessions every Thursday evening in the gym from May 2019 up until the COVID-19 lockdown.

6.6.3 There have been craft sessions in the library – in particular, card making. There is a music room for playing instruments but this closed during the COVID-19 period.

6.6.4 In February, the prison hosted its first ‘armed forces and veterans breakfast club’ for the local community.

6.6.5 Peer mentors are trained by the St Giles Trust trainer assessor and are available to support fellow prisoners. St Giles also helps prisoners achieve up to a level 3 national vocational qualification in information, advice and guidance. The trainer assessor has links to ongoing support roles in the community for employment.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 Near the end of the previous reporting year, there was a change in education service provider. Milton Keynes College was replaced by PeoplePlus. The service has been severely disrupted for most of this reporting year owing to staff resignations and sickness.

7.1.2 In January, one of the two main education buildings was flooded, causing it to be closed, and the education computer servers were badly damaged. Repairs to both were still in progress at the end of May.

7.1.3 About 12 prisoners have been studying Open University courses. They are supported by a member of prison staff, who liaises with the Open University, arranges contact with tutors and passes on assignments. The students have had to hand-write assignments owing to problems accessing computers due to the flood.

7.1.4 The education department records students’ progress towards targets as part of their individual learning plans. All qualifications offered are from recognised awarding bodies.

7.1.5 Prisoners with disabilities or learning difficulties are supported by an additional learning support practitioner and other prisoners in the roles of support worker and orderly.

7.1.6 During the COVID-19 period, classroom lessons stopped and staff were withdrawn. The prison is looking to relaunch the partnerships with the Shannon Trust (promoting literacy) and One to One Maths after the COVID-19 lockdown.

7.1.7 During the year, there was a change in library service provider. Derbyshire County Council was replaced by PeoplePlus and Suffolk Libraries. There were staffing problems during the final months under Derbyshire County Council.

7.1.8 The library has a wide range of books, including some in foreign languages, as well as newspapers, periodicals, DVDs, prison information, jigsaw puzzles and games, and public transport information (for ROTL and visits). The Storybook Dads and DVD Dads service has not been provided this year owing to library staff shortages. Access to computers was provided in the library, up until the flooding incident.

7.1.9 During the COVID-19 period, the library was closed and staff were withdrawn.

7.1.10 Wayout TV and the Way2Learn channels are available to prisoners in their rooms and there is a live feed into the dining hall that projects all day every day. Booklets for completing qualifications through Way2Learn are available in the dining hall for prisoners to collect.

## **7.2 Vocational training, work**

7.2.1 There continues to be a wide range of workshop activities delivered by the prison: market gardening, which produces stock for sale in the garden centre based outside the gate and is well patronised by the general public; fence panel repair and carpentry assembly workshops, which provide a good number of places; various recycling activities; gardens/estate maintenance; and a projects team, comprising prisoners with trade qualifications, which undertakes various work around the estate. These activities provide, on average, 230 activity places daily. Although public sales of plants ended during lockdown, market gardens continued to produce plants for staff on order.

7.2.2 Accreditation in horticulture, recycling, catering and customer service are delivered in partnership with the education provider, and industry-recognised qualifications are about to become available in industrial cleaning.

7.2.3 Where recognised qualifications are not currently available nationally, the prison is researching non-accredited certification opportunities for prisoners in areas such as use of hand tools and creation of wood products.

7.2.4 Reporting during the year shows that attendance levels at workshops is excellent, with 100% attendance most weeks. Underpinning all workshop activity is the non-accredited work skills certification, which has been voluntary but is soon to become compulsory. Clearly, most workshop activities had to cease during the Covid-19 lockdown, although in May 250 pallets per week were still being produced for the Ministry of Defence.

7.2.5 Labour market intelligence is supplied quarterly by the New Futures Network, and the prison identifies East and West Midlands, as well as London, as the most

frequent prisoner release areas for Sudbury. The occupational areas most often cited within the reports are catering, hospitality, retail and construction. The workshop provision at the prison is fairly well matched to these areas, with the exception of retail, which could possibly be accessed through the outworker scheme.

7.2.6 The fully functional café outside the gate at Sudbury, which had to close during the Covid-19 lockdown, normally provides authentic public-facing roles for front-of-house prisoners – including barista skills – and excellent experience for those working in the kitchen.

7.2.7 The virtual campus is a learning platform available across the whole prison estate. It makes accessible to prisoners e-learning packages – including the Open University – and offers modified versions of courses delivered within the prison which can be accessed by outworkers who are unable to attend during normal classroom hours. The virtual campus can also be used by prisoners to upload their curriculum vitae as they seek employment on release, as well as to search for job opportunities. The value of this digital platform mirrors the prevailing systems of learning and job search within the community.

7.2.8 A recent flood event at the prison has negatively affected the provision of the virtual campus, and the COVID-19 situation has further hampered restoration of the service. The most recent needs analysis carried out early this year identified that prisoners feel they need improved support with job seeking, and the action plan arising provides detail on what needs to be done and by when.

### **7.3 Offender management, progression**

7.3.1 Considerable work was undertaken by the prison to improve and develop the offender management processes during the previous reporting year, and this work has continued this year.

7.3.2 The majority of prisoners at Sudbury have been sentenced to terms between four and 10 years. The general profile of prisoners in respect of their time left to serve on arrival at Sudbury remains fairly consistent. Information provided in the most up-to-date needs analysis available shows that between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the average length of stay for prisoners barely changed. In 2019/20, 56% of prisoners had less than six months to serve, and of these 33% had less than three months. This remains a challenge for the establishment, in that a significant proportion of prisoners arrive with very little time to access and benefit from the resettlement opportunities which are designed to support them in effective transition to life after release.

7.3.3 Prisoners receive contact from their offender supervisors within 10 days of arrival and have regular contact with them, including drop-in sessions for those whose working arrangements make it difficult to meet during the normal working day. The Prison National Offender Management Information System (P-NOMIS) is used to monitor these contacts. All prisoners with less than 12 months to serve have their resettlement needs addressed within a custody plan.

7.3.4 The prison deals efficiently with the significant number of ROTL processes required to support resettlement activities. The necessary assessment of risk in issuing a ROTL is being managed very well, as is demonstrated in the small number of failures. Between July 2019 and March 2020, there were approximately 40,000 individual licences issued, with only 39 failures (0.092%). Home detention curfews (HDCs) are similarly well managed. Most ROTL ceased with lockdown, but a small number of workers filling roles designated essential continued to work outside the prison.

7.3.5 There has been a fall in the number of prisoners received who are serving indeterminate sentences, and currently there are about half the number received in 2016/17 (83). In 2019/20, Sudbury received 43 prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence. These prisoners are able to access the range of activities offered at Sudbury.

## **7.4 Family contact**

7.4.1 Fifty-five per cent of the prison population are fathers, and family visits are an essential part of enhancing the mental wellbeing of prisoners and underpinning the importance of family ties in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

7.4.2 A family engagement manager, employed by PACT, oversees the provision of family services and visits. Specific family visits are held regularly throughout the year. Dates set for the visits tend to reflect the school holidays and festive periods. All prisoners with children are entitled to apply for a family visit and are encouraged to apply for a place, and great effort is made to ensure that places are distributed fairly.

7.4.3 Various structured activities are offered during these visits, with the prisoners being involved in planning the content. Craft activities, themed quizzes and a comprehensive selection of toys to suit children of all ages have proved to be extremely popular with all participants. A member of the Board has observed several of these visits, and the prisoners and visitors they spoke to were appreciative of them.

7.4.4 A new prisoner-run drinks and hot snacks service is now available during these visits.

7.4.5 The engagement manager also delivers PACT courses to prisoners on a regular basis, one of which, 'Coming Home', supports prisoners who will shortly be released, in order to facilitate the change in environment and the issues that may arise.

7.4.6 Prisoners' partners requiring support can access the family engagement manager, who will offer appropriate support and casework input. Interventions might include legally required supervision of telephone calls or liaison work with other agencies which will be able to offer appropriate individual support. Sometimes, all that is needed to stop the escalation of family issues is a supportive telephone call by the manager.

7.4.7 At all times, the safeguarding of children is paramount.

7.4.8 During the COVID-19 lockdown period, all visits have stopped and prisoners have been given extra telephone PIN credit in order to facilitate telephone contact. There is also an emergency telephone facility for their families if they require urgent contact with a prisoner, and this is monitored daily by staff. The family engagement manager is working from home during this time and is providing remote support.

## **7.5 Resettlement planning**

7.5.1 The delivery of resettlement services is clearly underpinned by strategy and based upon the nine pathways to reducing reoffending. The establishment produces a robust annual analysis of prisoner needs in relation to their resettlement, referencing the full range of factors likely to cause criminal behaviour on release. These factors include such issues as lack of accommodation, employment or training; substance abuse; and thinking and behaviour patterns which can result in reoffending after release.

7.5.2 The prison works closely with a range of other agencies to address these potential issues with prisoners as they approach release, and these include community rehabilitation companies, the Department for Work and Pensions, job centres, family engagement agencies and charitable trusts. A reducing reoffending group meets monthly and is very well attended. It closely monitors progress against identified actions within each of the nine pathways.

7.5.3 The needs analysis 2019/20 identifies accommodation; education, training and employment; and finance, benefit and debt as continuing priorities for prisoner support.

7.5.4 Of 449 prisoners released between January and December 2019, only five (1.1%) were recorded as having no fixed abode (NFA). This shows a creditable success rate for the resettlement unit team. Of the five NFA prisoners, three were released to the London area, where the team has struggled to set up robust connections with housing providers, as responsible officers do not share a national offender management system.

7.5.5 There has been a lack of information, advice and guidance for prisoners in relation to securing education, training and employment on release. Progress to address this issue has been slow, and been further obstructed by the COVID-19 situation. A bid has been prepared to seek the resources to provide continuous support staff in this area.

7.5.6 Self-employment continues to be a popular area of interest for prisoners, and the prison has a bid under consideration which, if successful, will provide a year-round support worker in this area.

7.5.7 Through the business and community development manager, the prison continues to make very good connections with employers in the community who can offer job opportunities to prisoners released on temporary licence while they approach their release dates. On average, pre-COVID-19, there were approximately 150 prisoners attending paid and voluntary work outside the prison, representing about 26% of the population. The COVID-19 situation has obviously had a very negative impact on this. By the middle of May, there were 55 men in paid

placements, 11 of whom were due to end their placements in the following week. There were no community placements.

7.5.8 The New Futures Network is an initiative designed to improve the number of prisoners who can retain their outworking employment after release, by linking with national employers who can offer geographical transfer of employment.

## 8. The work of the IMB

The Board has been operating on a low number of members for some time and has been planning a recruitment campaign since before the last general election. The COVID-19 outbreak therefore represents the second external event that has obliged us to put recruitment on hold. Following the pandemic lockdown, Board members decided to suspend direct monitoring.

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	11
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Total number of visits to the establishment	Requires access to records held in Sudbury
Total number of segregation reviews attended	N/A

## Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	3	<b>3</b>
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	0	<b>0</b>
C	Equality	0	<b>1</b>
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	3	<b>1</b>
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	2	<b>1</b>
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	0	<b>3</b>
F	Food and kitchens	1	<b>0</b>
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	4	<b>2</b>
H1	Property within this establishment	1	<b>0</b>
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	7	<b>2</b>
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	2	<b>1</b>
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	4	<b>3</b>
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	2	<b>0</b>
K	Transfers	0	<b>1</b>
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	<b>Not recorded</b>	<b>4</b>
	Total number of applications	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>



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