



██████████
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Liverpool
68 Hornby Road
Liverpool
L9 3DF

MoJ Ref: SUB 83487

24 November 2020

Dear ██████████,

**HMP LIVERPOOL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2019. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you were short of Board members during the reporting year.

I note the Board's ongoing concern about the delays in transferring prisoners with severe mental ill health out of HMP Liverpool to a secure hospital. I would like to reassure you that we are determined to improve the secure hospital transfer process, to ensure delays are reduced and avoid prisons being used inappropriately. The Secretary of State (SoS) for Justice is committed to working with the SoS for Health and Social Care (and with health partners) to articulate a coherent picture of how healthcare is delivered throughout the criminal justice pathway.

We are also continuing to work in close collaboration with health partners to make sure that, where appropriate, vulnerable offenders are diverted away from custody and, where possible, from the criminal justice system altogether. This includes Health and Justice partners working together through the Community Sentence Treatment Requirement Programme, who ensure greater use is made of mental health, alcohol and drug treatment requirements as part of community sentences. The Government is also committed to reforming the Mental Health Act (MHA) and we are working closely with Department for Health and Social Care to respond to the recommendations of the independent review, chaired by Professor Sir Simon Wessely, which includes recommendations about improving the secure transfer process. A White Paper will be published in the coming months.

Additionally, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) will continue to monitor the time taken from referral to transfer and provide support where needed, for example, ensuring there is effective liaison with specialised commissioning. New performance metrics are being developed by NHSE&I via a strategic reporting tool to monitor those being assessed under the MHA and tracking assessment and transfer waiting periods. This will further support regional Commissioners to identify exceptional cases within prisons and act where necessary.

The Prison Transfer and Remission Guidance 2011 has now been refreshed and is awaiting publication, as the planned date for publication was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The amended guidance should help in this area. Alongside this work, the new mental health service specifications have been published for low and medium-secure hospitals. The NHS led Provider Collaboratives service for adult medium and low secure care gives local ownership to providers for the whole pathway. This includes the

interface with the criminal justice system, and resources for their own populations, enabling them to make commissioning decisions to improve and integrate services. In terms of high secure care, a strategic commissioning plan will be developed by April 2021. This will describe the clinical model, pathways and capacity required for implementation during 2021/22.

Locally, the waiting list for counselling support at HMP Liverpool is far less than that in the wider community. The Psychology service has resumed, and sessions run for approximately one hour per week over 12 weeks. Whilst waiting for therapeutic sessions prisoners are provided with self-help leaflets (covering bereavement, anxiety, etc) and distraction packs. As identified by the Board, prisoners located on the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) are visited regularly by healthcare staff, chaplaincy and prison staff.

I am pleased to note that the physical condition of HMP Liverpool has greatly improved and the backlog of maintenance jobs has noticeably decreased. However, I acknowledge that the refurbishment of the prison continues and major investment is necessary. As mentioned in my response to the Board of 30 October 2019, systems are in place to closely monitor accommodation matters and identify deterioration at the earliest opportunity. Robust monitoring processes are in place for the general maintenance of the prison and issues are discussed at the monthly Estates meeting held with the Governor. I am pleased to announce that at the end of September 2020, the poor performing kitchen freezers were replaced with modern energy efficient ones. Meanwhile, the refurbishment on H Wing continues and in-cell call system funding in Healthcare has been awarded and is progressing. Likewise, a programme of repairs to the design fault of B Wing's windows that were installed last year will take place as soon as practicable.

Turning to some positives captured in your report, I welcome the Resettlement Hub and I am encouraged by its success so far. It was also encouraging to receive your comments that prisoners are treated humanely and with decency. I was also pleased to read about the continuous good work of the chaplaincy and professionalism shown by staff in the CSU. I was particularly pleased to hear that a prisoner wrote a letter of thanks to the Governor for the fantastic support he received while in the CSU. Your comments on the good practice observed on the Wellbeing Unit (J Wing) and about the family day graduations ceremonies held are welcomed. Supporting family ties is a crucial part of rehabilitation and it is pleasing to note that in-cell telephony has been installed throughout the prison.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Justice Secretary and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Liverpool.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Workshops and Education

Workshops

HMP Liverpool and New Futures Network have been working with Liverpool City Council and the Police Crime Commissioner on a 'system change' strategy to employment opportunities in the area, including those leaving prison as part of their wider Reducing Reoffending community strategy. As part of this work, significant funding has been secured to refurbish workshops 10, 11 and 12. This will include installation of a lift making workshop activity more accessible for those with mobility difficulties.

Two of these workshops are to become a Digital Hub and to partner up with an employer in the community to provide current skill training, resources and a link for potential employment or further training on release. The other workshop is to re-open as an Upholstery workshop. It is hoped that the workshops will be up and running by March 2021, creating more meaningful work opportunities. In addition, discussions have taken place about building four new workshops, providing an additional 224 full-time employment spaces. The purpose of these new workshops has not yet been agreed.

Education

The education curriculum is reviewed annually to ensure the education offer supports the needs of the prisoners. It will also be reviewed to support HMP Liverpool when it becomes 100% Resettlement prison. Courses and qualifications will be altered to reflect the needs of the population, including the change to average sentence length and taking into consideration local labour market areas of growth.