



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Littlehey

**For reporting year
1 February 2020 – 31 January 2021**

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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 to the prison's records (apart from medical 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 IMB is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

2. Description of the establishment

2.1 HMP Littlehey, located in the village of Perry in Cambridgeshire, is a category C training prison for men convicted of sex offences. It is the largest prison in Europe for men convicted of sexual offences, and at the end of the reporting year, 94% of its population had been convicted of a sexual offence as their index offence.

2.2 48% of prisoners were aged 50 years and over at the end of the reporting period, compared with a national figure of 17%. Sixteen percent were under the age of 30.

Of the 527 people over 50, 32.8% (173) were in their 60s and 26.4% (139) were 70 or older (compared with national prison figures of 24.7% and 12.8% respectively).

2.3 The prison housed over 45 nationalities and 26 religious denominations, not including those stating 'no religion', atheist or agnostic.

2.4 The prison held 1,098 prisoners at the end of the reporting period (compared with an operational capacity of 1,180 and an average end-of-month population of 1,136). 925 prisoners were accommodated in single-occupancy cells and 173 in double-occupancy cells, of whom 41 were the sole occupants. 66 cells designed for single occupancy are allocated for sharing by two prisoners. There are four constant watch cells.

2.5 Healthcare services, including mental health care, were provided by the Northampton Health NHS Foundation Trust, with support from the charity Phoenix Futures for delivering substance misuse programmes. From August 2020 dental services were provided by Prison-Centred Dental Care. Social care was provided by Cambridgeshire County Council, as were library facilities until April 2020 when the contract was awarded to Suffolk Libraries (see 7.1.6). Education was delivered by PeoplePlus. The contract for facilities management was held by Government Facilities Services Limited (GFSL). The visitors centre and visits hall were run by the Ormiston Trust.

2.6 Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) provided resettlement services, some of which were subcontracted to Nacro.

2.7 Other providers to the prison included the Samaritans, Prison Visitors, Prison Fellowship, Peace Partners, Relate, Shannon Trust, Sue Ryder, Christians Against Poverty, and the Mothers Union.

2.8 There were 13 residential wings at the start of the period, including a dedicated reception wing, two enhanced wings, an accredited enabling

environment wing, a progressive wing, a small wing dedicated to prisoners with indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP), and two wings dedicated to older prisoners.

An additional wing was added during the year to accommodate the social distancing demands of the Coronavirus pandemic. Inadequate foundations led to its subsequent removal from service. One of the two enhanced wings was also removed from service after being condemned by HMPPS.

HMP Littlehey therefore ended the period with 12 residential wings.

- 2.9 The residential accommodation, set in extensive well-maintained gardens, is supported by two kitchens, two healthcare centres, an education facility, workshops, two libraries, two gyms, two multi-faith rooms, a CSU with nine operational cells, two all-weather sports pitches and a visits hall.

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

- 3.1.1 This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at HMP Littlehey for the period 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021. It should be noted that for 11 months of that period i.e. March 2020 – Jan 2021 the prison has undergone severe restrictions in its normal regime and activities due to the necessary response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The normal monitoring activities of the Board have been extremely limited with many members unable to visit the prison in person, either through guidance from the Secretariat or from personal concerns. Attempts to monitor remotely were met with variable success. The focus of the report is therefore about how the prison was able to operate a regime and fulfil statutory expectations given the regime it was obliged to adopt.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

- 3.2.1 Overall HMP Littlehey continues to be a safe and secure prison. There has only been one major incident when the command suite was opened during the last 12 months and a low rate of prisoner-on-prisoner violence.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

- 3.2.2 With few exceptions prisoners are treated with respect, decency and humanity. In some cases, the prison has found it difficult to provide the specialist interventions needed for those with complex issues, such as the

prolific self-harmers and those repeatedly housed, or housed long-term, in the care and separation unit (CSU).

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

- 3.2.3 The coronavirus pandemic has significantly impacted the health and wellbeing needs of the prisoners. The prison has managed the challenges provided by the pandemic well. It was initially designated as an outbreak site in March 2020 and in recognition of this, and the fact that 48% of its population are aged 50+ and therefore particularly vulnerable to the virus, it immediately instigated protocols to protect all the prisoners. This included designating two wings as isolation wings and enforcing strict PPE and social distancing adherence.
- 3.2.4 The cessation of most non-essential prison activities including much education and all workshops and gym, together with the restrictions in prisoner association and time out of cells, has inevitably impacted negatively on prisoners' mental wellbeing. However, the prison has managed these restrictions as positively as possible.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

- 3.2.5 As stated in last year's report, HMP Littlehey is not a resettlement prison and is not funded for this activity although it typically releases 25-30 prisoners each month.
- 3.2.6 Within the limited resources available the prison makes good efforts to support the resettlement of prisoners; however, due to the offences of those being released their resettlement often has to be to a new rather than their home area. This creates complications for both the prisoners and those charged with supporting their resettlement.
- 3.2.7 The enforced closure of G Wing, which was a progression unit housing enhanced prisoners, is a backward step. It has significantly reduced the opportunities for prisoners to develop their personal independence and decision-making skills with the prisoners being moved back to general population wings.

3.3 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- 3.3.1 The Board was advised during the annual reporting period that the residential wing to be built to replace the closed G wing will consist of double cells. The

Board believes this contravenes Ministry of Justice strategy and would be a retrograde step in terms of safety and decency.

3.3.2 The Board believes that appropriate accommodation for the aged and disabled prison population needs to be a significant consideration in the final decision of the replacement for G wing.

3.3.3 As stated in last year's report, there continue to be too many prisoners forced to share cells, some of which are designed as single cells.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

3.3.4 Property continues to be the area most complained about and recognised as such across the prison estate. The HMPPS property group has not yet introduced any changes to address this issue and as far as the Board is aware the promised policy framework for prisoner's property has still not been published.

In addition, the slow, or lack of, response from some prisons in responding to prisoner complaints about their missing or damaged property after their transfer to HMP Littlehey continues to be an area of frustration for all concerned.

The Board reiterates the questions we asked last year – when will the new policy framework for prisoners' property be published? And, when issues do arise, how will the prison service ensure complaints to other establishments are dealt with in a timely manner?

TO THE GOVERNOR

3.3.5 Given its large elderly population, HMP Littlehey should continue to provide opportunities for physical activity, mental stimulation and to encourage mobility. In addition, the provision of suitable accommodation, including wheelchair access where appropriate, needs to be given priority.

3.3.6 While the Board recognises the progress made during the year on understanding the equality issues at HMP Littlehey it believes this area needs further development to fully understand any underlying factors or issues which may be leading to the over-representation of different groups within such areas as adjudications.

3.3.7 With the high number of deaths in custody the Board asks whether the Governor will be focussing on the learning points from those that have occurred and, whether she will be addressing the number of trained family liaison officers (FLOs).

3.4 Progress since the last report

- 3.4.1 The Board is pleased that the ongoing issues with the heating and hot water infrastructure are now being addressed through the funded programme of work that has been agreed. It recognises that this will be an ongoing project.
- 3.4.2 The publication of the older persons strategy in December 2020 is to be welcomed and the Board looks forward to seeing it implemented once the prison is able to move to a post-pandemic regime.
- 3.4.3 The Board has observed an increased focus on diversity and inclusion within the prison during the year. It is particularly noted that senior prison leadership have promoted equalities as a priority and have made efforts to continue to involve prisoner representatives for protected characteristics despite regime restrictions. The Board feels positive regarding the progress made to date.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

- 4.1.1 In response to the coronavirus pandemic and to protect both staff and prisoners, a revised reception exceptional delivery model (EDM) covering reception and first night safety was quickly compiled and implemented. This ensured new arrivals to the prison were effectively screened and protocols to manage their initial two-week self-isolation were in place to minimise potential introduction of the virus to the prison population.
- 4.1.2 The numbers of transfers to and from the prison have fluctuated in response to the pandemic. Initially HMPPS ceased all transfers and the subsequent revised transfer protocol restricted arrivals to a maximum of six at a time. This protocol has been followed most of the time. On the occasions when this maximum has been exceeded, the situation has been managed by holding prisoners in excess of the six allowed in reception while the first six have been processed in the induction wing. Whilst not ideal this has protected both the new arrivals and those already in situ at the prison.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

- 4.2.1 Across the prison population nationally, according to the [Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile Winter 2021](#), the annual number of deaths due to natural causes is 2.2 in every 1,000 prisoners, or 0.22%. During the reporting year in HMP Littlehey there were 17 deaths in custody, 16 of them due to natural causes. This equates to 1.5% (with the prison having an average end-of-month population of 1,136 for the period). One death was self-inflicted. There were five deaths during the previous reporting period.

The [Factfile](#) also states that 17% of the prison population is 50 or over. At HMP Littlehey, while three times as many prisoners are 50 or over (nearly 50% are over 50) the number of deaths through natural causes is almost seven times that documented in the [Factfile](#) (1.5% compared with 0.22%).

The Board recognises that the [Factfile](#) does not cover the entire period of this report or of the Coronavirus pandemic, and that it is difficult to draw direct comparisons so this finding will be reviewed in the coming months.

- 4.2.2 The [Factfile](#) also mentions the Samaritans Listener scheme, noting that in 2018 there were 1,424 active Listeners in place across the entire estate, playing an invaluable role in making prisons safer by being there for other prisoners who might be struggling to cope. While a direct comparison with the [Factfile](#) data is not possible, the Board is pleased that HMP Littlehey takes part in the Listener scheme, having 13 active Listeners on the rota for the last month of the reporting period.

- 4.2.3 The Board is disappointed to note that the number of self-harm incidents increased from the previous period, and there remain a small number of prisoners who the prison finds difficult to help.

Setting aside the few difficult-to-help prisoners, there were a total of 316 self-harm incidents, or 273 per 1,000 prisoners. While there was an increase of almost 25% from 254 incidents during the previous reporting period, the rate at Littlehey continues to compare very favourably with self-harm rates across the Prison Service as a whole, which experiences an annual rate of 741 incidents per 1,000 prisoners (for the 12 months ending June, 2020) according to the [Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile](#).

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

- 4.3.1 While HMP Littlehey continues to be a relatively safe place for staff and prisoners, the Board is disappointed to note that the number of assaults on staff rose from 16 for the previous period to 31 for the period ending 31 Jan. 2021.

On the other hand, it is encouraging that prisoner-on-prisoner assaults fell from 66 to 34 over the same duration (including fights, sexual assaults and violent assaults). This represents 30 per 1,000 prisoners which is significantly less than the rate of over 400 per 1,000 reported by the [Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile](#).

4.4 Use of force

- 4.4.1 According to the prison records, force was used 122 times during the reporting period, involving 69 prisoners, and almost a third of these involved the same few prisoners. Types of force included cuffs escort, guided hold, full relocation, and full restraint. Reasons included escorts, relocations, to prevent self-harm or injury, non-compliance and assault on other prisoners or staff.

The Board notes that batons were not used, and while PAVA spray was drawn on one occasion, it was not used.

- 4.4.2 The National Tactical Response Group, a specialist unit assisting in safely managing and resolving serious incidents, was deployed in HMP Littlehey on one occasion during the year. This was in response to a request from the local management after lengthy negotiations with a prisoner barricaded in their cell were unsuccessful. The situation was swiftly brought to a peaceful conclusion.

According to the [Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile](#), the Group responded to 720 incidents across the estate in 2019, trending up from 104 in 2010. One deployment at Littlehey is therefore far below the national average.

- 4.4.3 [The Guardian](#) published data obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request in January 2021 which noted 59.1 uses of force per 100 inmates in the year from 2019 (up from 27 per 100 in 2011–12).

Given the average end-of-month population of 1,136 in HMP Littlehey, 122 occurrences equates to 10.8 per 100 prisoners, which is a considerable improvement on the national data published by [The Guardian](#).

Note, however, that the Board is disappointed that use of force record keeping at HMP Littlehey is historically questionable, mirroring national findings reported in the HMIP Annual Report (2019 – 2020). The Board is therefore unable to provide comparisons with the previous period, but hopes that the improvements in record keeping evident in recent months are maintained.

4.5 Substance misuse

- 4.5.1 The integrated substance misuse team (ISMT) is a group of eight who work for the charity Phoenix Futures in support of Northampton Health NHS Foundation Trust, and who occupy four offices in one of the residential wings. There are seven team members at HMP Littlehey, and one service manager who also works at HMP Whitemoor.
- 4.5.2 Prisoners are introduced to the charity and its work during their induction. For those that choose to engage, a risk assessment is completed, and a case worker assigned who assesses their needs, creates a care plan and a suitable programme to help them deal with their substance misuse issues.
- 4.5.3 Prisoners can voluntarily engage with the ISMT at any time, whether they have already completed a programme or not, for example, in advance of a Parole Board hearing. Those that fail drug tests or are found in possession of fermented liquids are also referred by the prison.
- 4.5.4 If a prisoner arrives at HMP Littlehey already taking prescribed methadone, for example, their treatment would be noted in their records and their needs would be organised and met by the integrated drug treatment service (IDTS – part of healthcare).

Those that otherwise need assistance with their substance misuse are referred to the IDTS.

Regular IDTS reviews are conducted by healthcare and an ISMT team member.

- 4.5.5 There were 32 drug finds during the reporting period, and 20 finds of fermenting liquid. There were also 22 positive drug tests during February and March, 2020 (before mandatory drug testing was stopped as a result of the pandemic) some of which were caused by prescribed medication.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

5.1.1 There is a distinct difference between the two parts of the prison. Lakeside consists of older buildings and the accommodation in Woodlands is much newer, originally built when the prison housed 480 young offenders. The older residential wings, which include the 66 double cells, mostly have shared toilet and shower facilities on the landings. The induction wing mirrors this system and careful assessments have to be made with regards to cell-sharing.

All residential wings on Woodlands contain separate single-occupancy cells, each with toilet and shower. The majority of older prisoners reside in two of these wings. Despite the huge amount of money spent on extensive boiler and piping work during the last three years, hot water supply and heating is still erratic in some areas. During colder weather the prison resorted to providing individual fan heaters and duvets to prisoners when required. C Wing was particularly affected during the coldest parts of winter.

The Board is particularly disappointed that this issue remains outstanding given that it has been highlighted in previous reports, although it recognises that there is now an agreed programme of work in place to start to address this issue.

5.1.2 During the Coronavirus pandemic, prison numbers fell with fewer in-bound transfers. To help reduce double cells, a new Bunkabin wing was erected in mid-May on a site near the outside fence housing 24 enhanced and red-band prisoners. Unfortunately, it had no indoor servery, communal or eating area and poor or non-existent foundations forced its closure in November 2020. The accommodation situation worsened with the closure of G Wing on 23 October 2020, forcing the relocation within HMP Littlehey of 40 single-celled enhanced prisoners. This type of building was condemned across the whole prison estate by HMPPS.

5.1.3 The Board notes the changes to the laundry provision across the prison following the decision not to renew the JLA contract for industrial-type machines. These changes have included the provision of domestic washers and driers on all landings, with wing orderlies taking responsibility for organising the cleaning of prisoners' personal clothing. This complements the operation of the clothing exchange store which sends up to 80 bags of laundry per week of prison-provided items (including prison issued clothing and bulky items such as towels and bedding) to HMP Long Lartin's laundry facility. These laundry arrangements, together with the work of the wing cleaning (all wings) and painting (Lakeside only) teams have continued to provide a good standard of service during the report period.

5.1.4 The two kitchens, despite continuing issues with broken equipment such as ovens and freezers, continue to provide an excellent service even though they

have been working with half the number of kitchen workers due to pandemic restrictions. It is disappointing to note that repairs and/or replacements take such a long time to be authorised. Despite this, prisoners often say the menus and quality of meals are significantly better than other prisons they have been in. Menus are supplemented by fresh produce grown by the market garden team in vegetable gardens and poly-tunnels. Prisoners who have specific dietary requirements because of religious, health or moral reasons are accommodated. The kitchens' leadership deserve the highest praise.

- 5.1.5 During the last year no prisoner was on the basic level of the incentives scheme and therefore all prisoners had access to a television. However, in some areas of the prison, reception was inconsistent and not all channels were available to all prisoners. This was particularly the case in Woodlands and in the CSU. The Board understands this situation cannot be resolved without expenditure due to the limitations of the equipment in different parts of the prison which, while old, is performing as designed and unable to receive more channels.

Nonetheless, the Board is concerned about the unequal delivery of services to different parts of the prison.

5.2 Segregation, special accommodation

- 5.2.1 The care and separation unit is situated in the older part of the prison. It is a basic, somewhat cramped and gloomy facility counter-balanced by a generally cheerful and helpful team of officers who do their very best to manage some often very difficult prisoners.
- 5.2.2 There are ten cells, a small servery area, an adjudication room, one poorly ventilated shower/toilet with some continuing drainage issues, a small office and an exercise yard. Cell 1 is used for searches, not accommodation. Cell 9 has been out of use since well before the pandemic lockdown and is awaiting repairs. One cell is suitable for constant watch. The narrow corridor is not always practical especially when three or four officer unlocks are required with staff in full control and restraint equipment. Due to a lack of storage space, utilities cupboards often double up to include equipment and storage which is far from ideal.
- 5.2.3 The Board reiterates the point made last year that this area is unsuitable for prisoners who need long-term isolation to protect themselves or others, especially if they also have severe mental health issues.
- 5.2.4 Better accommodation with suitable interview rooms would enable more productive meetings for rehabilitation, reintegration meetings and ACCT reviews.

5.3 Staff-prisoner/detainee relationships, key workers

- 5.3.1 The key worker scheme has been significantly compromised by the regime restrictions put in place for the pandemic. This has resulted in prisoners experiencing numerous staff changes for key worker meetings which have been detrimental both to the building of staff-prisoner relationships and in assisting prisoners with their journey to release.
- 5.3.2 It should also be mentioned that key work notes on prisoner records have, in many cases, been lacking or otherwise fail to reflect the intent of the key work initiative. This, coupled with the lack of understanding of the key work concept of several prisoners questioned as part of a themed rota visit on the topic during the period, suggests a lack of meaningful roll-out.

It is therefore encouraging that the Governor appointed towards the end of the period was instrumental in the creation of the offender management in custody model (OMiC), which defines the key worker roles, responsibilities and expectations. She has stated her commitment to a full implementation and the Board looks forward to observing this.

5.4 Equality and diversity

- 5.4.1 The Board is pleased that, from summer 2020, the quality and regularity of the HMP Littlehey diversity and inclusion (D&I) action team meetings continued to improve following a reduction in the first quarter of the reporting year. Representatives for all prisoner groups regularly attend and participate (as permitted within pandemic regime requirements), both raising areas of concern and supporting progress where implemented.

Attendance by members of the HMP Littlehey leadership team has noticeably increased as has their ownership of implementing items agreed within the monthly action plan. The improvements coincided with the appointment of a new equalities governor and Governor (acting).

- 5.4.2 D&I data monitoring has significantly improved during the period and is starting to provide insight for the leadership team. With the assistance of Ipswich race equality council, the data is collated monthly and presented with commentary as part of the D&I meeting. Representatives for all prison groups comment on the data, providing both support and suggestions for improvements.
- 5.4.3 The Board is pleased that, despite the regime restrictions required throughout much of the reporting year, the prison continued to encourage a range of cultural events celebrating diversity. Notable this year was black history month from mid-September which included a mobile display celebrating cultural icons from countries represented amongst the prisoners. This was moved to each residential wing to ensure everyone had the opportunity to see it despite the regime restrictions.

Also of note is the working together of the catering manager and representatives to provide special monthly menus to reflect specific cultural events e.g. for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, although it is to be noted that budgetary constraints can limit the culturally specific food provided.

Older prisoners

5.4.4 The over-50s comprised 48% of the population at the end of the period, with over 17% being 65 or over. The Board is therefore pleased to note that HMP Littlehey published its older residents strategy in December 2020. This strategy recognises the need to design and deliver services with this older population in mind. It is also encouraging that as part of recent senior recruitment campaigns an emphasis was placed on effectively providing for this population.

5.4.5 However, due to the restrictive regime that has existed throughout this reporting period there has been no progress in increasing the provision of purposeful activity for this age group.

Table 1a shows the number of prisoners without formally allocated activity as at the end of the reporting period, whether subject to a pandemic furlough or not. Almost 55% of those that are 65 and over are completely unallocated.

While the percentage of those in this age group unassigned for half days fell since the last reporting period (Table 1b), those unassigned for full days rose by a similar percentage.

Table 1a: Number (% of age group) of unassigned prisoners in each age group, 2020 - 2021.

Age Range	No. of Residents	Unassigned Half Day	Unassigned All Day
18 - 25	58	3 (5.2%)	19 (32.8%)
26 - 30	101	12 (11.9%)	13 (12.9%)
31 - 40	207	30 (14.5%)	45 (21.7%)
41 - 50	205	22 (10.7%)	32 (15.6%)
51 - 64	314	32 (10.2%)	66 (21.0%)
65 and over	213	51 (23.9%)	117 (54.9%)
	1,098	150 (13.7%)	292 (26.6%)

Table 1b: Number (% of age group) of unassigned prisoners in each age group, 2019 - 2020.

Age Range	No. of Residents	Unassigned Half Day	Unassigned All Day
20 - 25	75	10 (13.3%)	14 (18.7%)
26 - 30	121	9 (7.4%)	18 (14.9%)
31 - 39	216	28 (13.0%)	19 (8.8%)
40 - 49	222	26 (11.7%)	20 (9.0%)
50 - 64	353	33 (9.3%)	24 (6.8%)
65 and over	219	72 (32.9%)	97 (44.3%)
	1,206	178 (14.8%)	192 (15.9%)

5.4.6 The maintenance of wheelchairs (personal, council owned, NHS owned) was highlighted in the previous annual report and continued to be an issue during this reporting year. An initiative to encourage prisoners to be mobile rather than rely on using a wheelchair was pursued during the year, however the need for working wheelchairs remains important and the repair of this equipment remains problematic.

Learning difficulties and disabilities

- 5.4.7 The latest criminogenic needs analysis completed at HMP Littlehey in early 2020 showed up to 19% of the prison population as having some form of barrier to learning, including dyslexia.
- 5.4.8 The Board is pleased to note that the education department has implemented several activities this year aimed at improving engagement with prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). These have included the rewriting of induction material to make it more LDD friendly, the inclusion of a new LDD screener with all induction packs and identification of the learning support required for each prisoner with LDD. It is recognised that with the restrictive regime during this reporting year the implementation of these initiatives continues to be work in progress.
- 5.4.9 Within the wider prison environment support for this population is not at the same standard. Staff recognise they need training to build the knowledge, skills and confidence to properly support these prisoners; however, such training planned to take place during 2020 has been delayed due to the pandemic. The Board recognises that the LDD lead within the education department is available to offer support and advice to HMP Littlehey wing staff. However, this needs to be supplementary rather than the only trained resource available to staff.

Black, Asian or minority ethnic prisoners (BAME)

- 5.4.10 There has been significant progress in data monitoring of the black, Asian and minority ethnic population in line with the 2017 Lammy Review, although it continues to be an area for improvement.

The Board notes that base data on ethnicity, religion, age and sexual orientation is compiled on a monthly basis and used to inform the data monitoring discussions at the diversity and inclusion action team meeting. Data currently monitored at these meetings includes adjudications, Incentive Policy Framework (IPF) and Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFs) and, although the monitoring continues to be work in progress as it is further refined, the analysis now drills down into the data to better inform the discussion and action planning.

- 5.4.11 The ethnic mix in HMP Littlehey has changed little since the last reporting period, but as demonstrated by Tables 3a and 3b, non-white ethnicities continue to be over-represented in their proportion of complaints. While the 'mixed / other' proportion of adjudications fell, they remain over-represented and the 'black' representation in adjudications rose from 26% to over 30%. The Board continues to be disappointed that there is little understanding of the causes of these anomalies.
- 5.4.12 It is disappointing to note, as per Table 2, that the black prisoners are over-represented in the use of force, as it is in the proportion of adjudications.

Table 2: Proportion of adjudications, complaints and use of force in the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of Littlehey, 2020 - 2021

Ethnicity	Proportion of Population	Proportion of Adjudications	Proportion of Complaints	Proportion of Use of Force
Asian	8.0%	6.2%	9.5%	3.3%
Black	10.3%	30.2%	12.3%	36.1%
Mixed / Other	4.1%	7.8%	6.1%	7.4%
White	77.6%	55.8%	72.1%	53.3%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

5.4.13 While only 17 individuals received 276 adjudications between them (six black prisoners, two mixed / other prisoners and nine white prisoners), removing their adjudication statistics from the totals still leaves a black population of 10.3% having 26.1% of adjudications for the reporting period.

Table 3a: Proportion of adjudications and complaints in the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of Littlehey, 2020 - 2021.

Ethnicity	Proportion of Population	Proportion of Adjudications	Proportion of Complaints
Asian	8.0%	6.2%	9.5%
Black	10.3%	30.2%	12.3%
Mixed / Other	4.1%	7.8%	6.1%
White	77.6%	55.8%	72.1%
	100%	100%	100%

Table 3b: Proportion of adjudications and complaints in the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of Littlehey, 2019 - 2020.

Ethnicity	Proportion of Population	Proportion of Adjudications	Proportion of Complaints
Asian	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Black	10.0%	26.0%	15.0%
Mixed / Other	5.0%	11.0%	6.0%
White	77.0%	56.0%	72.0%
	100%	100%	100%

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

5.5.1 During the reporting period the chaplaincy has continued to provide support for prisoners who have lost loved ones despite the coronavirus pandemic and the prison lockdown from March 2020. Pre-pandemic, this may have included attendance at funerals. During the pandemic, the chaplaincy has used iPads to enable prisoners to join webcasts of funerals.

5.5.2 Families of prisoners who have died in custody have been supported by a small number of family liaison officers (FLOs). During this time there have been 17 such deaths, one of which was self-inflicted. The workload has been greater because the FLOs are appointed when a prisoner is close to death rather than at death, so that they can engage and support families prior to the demise of the prisoner. Because of the high number of deaths, a new

initiative, called Time to Talk, was introduced by a residential governor and the lead chaplain, designed to support both prisoners and staff. This gave opportunities for small, socially distanced groups to express their feelings about any issues.

5.5.3 The chaplaincy has also conducted funerals of several prisoners at crematoria etc. For funerals of prisoners with no family or friends present chaplaincy volunteers have been able to attend.

5.5.4 During the reporting period collective worship stopped, but prisoners have been able to practise their faith through various media. Services have been broadcast throughout the prison by Wayout TV and prison radio, for a number of different faiths e.g. Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Pagan, although it is not clear whether all wings were able to access these services. Also, faith-based teaching material provided by chaplaincy HQ was distributed to up to 500 prisoners of faith on a weekly basis.

5.5.5 The chaplaincy continued to support prisoners and staff in the care and separation unit and wings throughout the year, seven days per week.

5.5.6 In the early days of lockdown there was a national shortage of PPE. To meet this need, a workshop was created to produce small bottles of hand gel for distribution to staff across the prison estate. The workshop was operated by prison staff on a voluntary basis overseen by the lead chaplain.

5.5.7 The chaplaincy deserves praise for all their efforts to maintain morale and support the needs of staff and prisoners in such extreme circumstances.

5.6 Incentives schemes (IP)

5.6.1 The Board notes that in accordance with HMPPS guidelines all prisoners were designated as standard or enhanced during the pandemic. None were designated as basic.

5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 The Board is pleased that the number of complaints continued to fall at HMP Littlehey, from 4,495 in the reporting year 2018 – 2019 to 3,343 in 2019 – 2020 and down a further 18% to 2,739 for the current reporting period (see Tables 4a and 4b).

Table 4a: Number of original complaints (that is, not including appeals) in reporting year, 2020 - 2021

Establishment	Comp 1	Comp 2		Grand Total
		HMPPS	IMB	
External	232			232
Littlehey	2,067	440	22	2,529
Grand Total	2,299	440	22	2,761

Table 4b: Number of original complaints (that is, not including appeals) in reporting year, 2019 - 2020

Establishment	Comp 1	Comp 2		Grand Total
		HMPPS	IMB	
External	342	18		360
Littlehey	2,368	615	28	3,011
Grand Total	2,710	633	28	3,371

5.8 Property

- 5.8.1 As in previous years, it remains disappointing that the Prison Service was unable to manage prisoners' property safely when transferring between establishments. This is a source of continuing and great frustration for prisoners. Of the 232 complaints to other establishments during the reporting year, 99 (42.7%) relate to property.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

- 6.1.1 Northampton Health NHS Foundation Trust is contracted to provide both physical and mental health services to HMP Littlehey. They also provided dental health services until August 2020 when Prison-Centred Dental Care took over this service. The Board is pleased to note that to date this contractual separation of dental from the other health services has not affected the prisoners and there continues to be good cooperation between the two service providers. It also recognises that, with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the dental services have remained at a basic level.
- 6.1.2 During the reporting year there were some challenges with maintaining the full primary and mental health staffing levels; for example there was no podiatrist in place until September 2020 and the mental health team has been understaffed all year. In addition, from April 2020 there was an average of 2.5 staff shielding due to the coronavirus pandemic each month which put further pressure on the staff remaining. Some pressure was released by engaging bank staff to support primary nursing care between November 2020 and January 2021.

- 6.1.3 The pandemic affected all areas of the healthcare service, and the healthcare team worked well with the prison staff to ensure the prisoners continued to receive both their medication and access to medical consultations and treatment when required.
- 6.1.4 Despite the pandemic restrictions imposed to protect the prisoner population, healthcare staff continued to be actively involved in prisoner inductions, seeing 318 receptions between April 2020 and January 2021. During this time, they also attended 382 ACCT reviews, all Rule 45 reviews and conducted daily CSU visits.
- 6.1.5 The level of healthcare complaints received during the 2020-21 year has averaged circa 13 per month, with over 70% of these relating to the care provided or medication issues. A significant minority of complaints received both between April and June 2020 and in the final quarter of the reporting year related to the pandemic and queries regarding the need for self-isolation.
- 6.1.6 Overall, the Board believes the healthcare teams have responded well to a particularly difficult year and have made their best endeavours to maintain services within the prison within the constraints that have been in place to protect prisoners from the dangers posed by the coronavirus.

6.2 Physical healthcare

- 6.2.1 From 23 March 2020, when the national lockdown commenced, all routine healthcare and drop-in clinics were suspended and most secondary care appointments were cancelled (89% in April 2020). From this date prisoners received only emergency treatments identified from their healthcare applications.
- 6.2.2 In response to the lockdown, the healthcare team amended their practices. The changes included healthcare staff visiting wings to distribute medication and face-to-face doctor consultations taking place on the wings. All other healthcare services, e.g. dentist and optician, were provided on an emergency only basis which was closely managed by healthcare's scrutiny of applications. Any treatment required was provided exclusively in hospital.
- 6.2.3 Similar to the external community, the initial lockdown led to cancellations of routine medical procedures, delays in treatment and requirements to self-isolate. These are reflected in the healthcare complaints received during this time.
- 6.2.4 The Board was pleased to see that, from July 2020 (as soon as NHS and HMPPS guidance allowed) appointments for doctor consultations and to see a nurse were significantly increased and appointments for the dentist, optician and physiotherapy were reinstated. By September 2020, podiatry and ultrasound appointments had also restarted.

It is notable that since the reinstatement there have been very few 'no shows' for any of these appointments, although a small upward trend is noticeable during the last quarter of this reporting period.

6.3 Mental healthcare

6.3.1 Throughout the reporting year the mental health team at HMP Littlehey have operated at below optimum staffing levels and with a steadily increasing caseload (from 34 cases in July 2020 to 58 in January 2021) during a period where intervention programmes have been suspended. In addition, there was a substantial increase in the number of prisoners being reviewed by the mental health team, from 67 in August 2020 to 145 in January 2021.

6.3.2 The Board has been pleased to note that the mental health team have responded to this particularly difficult year by adding to their support for the prisoners through the production and distribution of a self-help leaflet. The leaflet contains strategies and skills that prisoners can deploy to help alleviate their anxieties. Information has also been provided via Wayout TV, which all prisoners can access.

6.3.3 Whilst the Board commends the constructive actions taken to cope with the increasing demands on their services, it is concerned that the waiting times to see a member of the mental health team increased significantly from five days in July 2020 to 42 days by December 2020.

6.4 Social care

6.4.1 The Board is pleased to report that social care at HMP Littlehey continues to be of a high standard although the coronavirus pandemic has necessitated a scaling back of the services provided on site. Despite the regime restrictions all essential care provision has continued throughout the reporting period, including the four social care visits each day required for palliative care.

6.4.2 The cessation of the enabling courses and the self-isolation necessitated by the pandemic has been particularly hard for prisoners and has affected their health and wellbeing and been detrimental to developing their independence. The Board looks forward to seeing these re-established once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

6.4.3 The Board notes that the multi-disciplinary collaboration achieved during the previous reporting year has continued throughout the current reporting year with joint decision-making regarding appropriate prisoner care e.g., when disability cells have become available all agencies collectively agree who to move.

While commending the collaboration in this area the Board is disappointed that the prison continues to have only a small number of disability cells available and, given the prison age profile, this area needs to be prioritised.

6.4.4 During the year, the prison moved forward with improving the care provision where possible and focussed on implementing technical aids for prisoners.

These included fall alarms fitted to wrist watches and mattress alarms enabling staff to be informed immediately. In addition to these technical aids the prison introduced twice daily welfare checks on the two older resident wings (I and J Wings) to support prisoners with the isolation the pandemic has created.

6.5 Exercise, regime

- 6.5.1 For several years, HMP Littlehey has been an exemplar of good physical education practice within the prison service. Prison leadership appear to wish to maintain that achievement with a structural change: a trained PEI has been appointed as custodial manager for PE/activities, which the Board views as a positive change given the importance of the department in the mental and physical wellbeing of prisoners.
- 6.5.2 Physical activity was obviously hit hard during the year but staff should be congratulated for their efforts to support prisoners. Outside circuit training took place on the AstroTurf as soon as practicable. To keep prisoners safe, attendance at these sessions is organised on a wing/bubble system. In-cell exercises were created for prisoners and in-cell packs for elderly prisoners were devised. The annual prisoner participation rate was measured at 73%.
- 6.5.3 During the first lockdown, gym staff were reassigned to escort duties for prisoners collecting medications from both healthcare facilities. Nevertheless, gym equipment has been completely serviced, repaired and reupholstered and all equipment in both gyms made ready for Stage 3 delivery.
- 6.5.4 Positive plans have been put in place for new developments: new spinning bikes were purchased to introduce “spinning classes” which can provide a qualification and aid non weight-bearing fitness. New cardiovascular and resistance machines were also purchased to aid prisoner fitness. It is hoped that the awarding body Active IQ will be able to confirm that the prison can start delivering a level 2 fitness qualification.
- 6.5.5 The Board is pleased to note that plans were made during the period for a new focus on older prisoners with the creation of an afternoon social club involving exercise, bowls, chair-based exercise, yoga and remedial PE. It notes the engagement with the dementia team in this planning.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

- 6.6.1 Completion of the intensive multi-week programme delivered by the integrated substance misuse team (see section 4.5) results in a detailed report to the prisoner’s probation officer and the offender management unit (OMU). The programme has 16 sessions, every morning for five weeks. One session each week includes auricular acupuncture and meditation.

The programme may only be a part of a prisoner's work with their case manager, and once complete their file is given a 'suspended' status and can be reactivated should they need to re-engage.

6.6.2 The current live caseload includes 104 prisoners, which is low by historical standards. An additional 48 have a 'suspended' status.

6.6.3 Release plans are developed and documented with those approaching release that have engaged the ISMT. These detail main pre-release issues and achievements, and post-release issues and goals. They also include making and documenting appointments with external agencies to facilitate post-release progress.

The plan includes any wishes to be discharged with take-home Nalaxone (which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose) and harm reduction information which explains the risks of abusing different or combined substances, and provides strategies to recognise and manage them. It also gives information on substance misuse services available in the area of release.

6.6.4 While measures taken to manage the impact of the coronavirus pandemic mean that there are limited opportunities for drugs to be brought into HMP Littlehey (no visitors and limited transfers), contributing to reduced drug use and associated violence, they have also limited the face-to-face prisoner contact with rehabilitation services other than for those on the wing which houses the ISMT offices.

Face-to-face programme delivery stopped in March 2020, replaced with a booklet-style delivery for completion in the prisoners' cells. A prisoner's progress can therefore be less obvious.

While an understandable and pragmatic approach in the circumstances, the Board looks forward to the return of face-to-face contact between the ISMT and prisoners on all wings and the resumption of in-person programme delivery, either of which may encourage a greater engagement. The appropriate time to re-engage is to be determined by the NHS Trust.

6.6.5 The Board is pleased that there are plans to re-establish and extend the drop-in service that had been started on M wing shortly before the coronavirus pandemic, which we understand had been positively received.

6.7 Soft skills

6.7.1 Despite the pandemic, a number of "soft skills" activities have been offered, most of which are via education e.g. in-cell work packs not leading to exam board qualifications such as art for beginners, creative crafts, self-management, time-management, principles of journalism and introduction to

mental health. In-house PeoplePlus certificates were awarded and £5 payment bonuses helped increase the take-up.

- 6.7.2 The Board acknowledges and applauds those prisoners who sent entries to the Koestler Trust Awards scheme (for art in criminal justice settings). There were 72 commendations including 28 prizes for works such as paintings, drawings, sculpture, portraits and fiction.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Education

- 7.1.1 Apart from about seven weeks in February/March 2020 no face-to-face education delivery took place in the prison due to the coronavirus pandemic during the reporting period. This includes classroom-based learning and vocational courses. Attempts were made by the provider, PeoplePlus, to be flexible and deliver learning in a different manner. Initially support was provided for prisoners on courses that had a qualification, by providing work-packs that were delivered to and from the wings for marking and feedback, with quarantine periods in between.

The Board notes the success of this development, supported by the 80% positive feedback from prisoners about the process. Staff deserve some congratulations for their flexible approach even when working remotely.

- 7.1.2 Education staff returned fully to the site in November. The Way Forward and Way to Learn courses were supported using Wayout TV which all prisoners have access to in their cells. In December level 2 food safety exams took place: these both provide essential training for servery workers and support prisoners nearing release who will be looking for employment. Functional skills exams took place, one of the few prisons in the country to organise this. Prison staff acted as invigilators with training from PeoplePlus staff.
- 7.1.3 Open University and distance learning course have been supported during the reporting period. As of February 2020 there were 42 prisoners enrolled on OU courses and 29 on other distance learning courses.
- 7.1.4 Individual support for reading and numeracy skills, which is supported by Shanon Trust and One-to-One respectively using prisoner mentors, has been suspended during the pandemic.
- 7.1.5 There was a decline in the sequencing process during the reporting period (through which relevant programmes are arranged in an order which best enables the prisoner's rehabilitation).

The sequencing process requires improvement to ensure that prisoner needs are a priority over prisoner requests, with a joined-up process from all relevant departments. The Board has been informed that plans are in place to review this process.

Library

7.1.6 Since April 2020 Suffolk Libraries, (a registered charity overseen and supported by Suffolk County Council) have held the contract for providing library services previously provided by Cambridgeshire County Council. The library facilities on both sides of the prison have been closed during the pandemic.

The Board is disappointed to learn that the inter-library lending facility previously offered, is no longer available under the new contract, the nearest library being Newmarket, which is 35 miles away.

7.1.7 Since October 2020 the two prison libraries have been running an outreach service. Prisoners and staff were notified of the system and forms sent to the wings for prisoners to order books that were delivered to wings. Books had a 72-hour quarantine period.

7.1.8 Despite the problems faced, staff have kept a basic service going. Planning has been made for poetry and creative writing competitions. Story Book Dads, a CD story reading service for fathers to send to their children, was curtailed but a new venture called Swaps was put in place. Under this venture, after vetting, fathers and children receive booklets to complete and then swap them, facilitated by the library. Ideas to maintain family links deserve praise.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 At the end of the reporting period, of a total population of 1,098 prisoners, 292 had no assigned activity for any part of the day (26.6%). Excluding those noted as fully retired, the proportion of all-day unassigned prisoners was 16.1%. Prisoners under retirement age who are unassigned work or education will spend nearly all day locked in their cells.

7.2.2 The Board is pleased, however, with the number of opportunities that the establishment provides for prisoners to demonstrate their active citizenship or community spirit and responsibility. At the end of the reporting period, 21 were assigned roles as learning support assistants, 160 as orderlies, helping out in different prison departments and 46 as various representatives and coordinators. There were 227 assignments in total, of which 40 were full time.

7.2.3 The pandemic led to the cessation of most non-essential work activities, and the Board is pleased to note that prisoners assigned work that they were unable to engage in, through no fault of their own, continued to be paid.

- 7.2.4 It is worthy of note that in support of the [Fine Cell Work charity](#), which makes beautiful, handcrafted products in British prisons, HMP Littlehey produced 251 kits, raising £5,231, winning the award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Fine Cell Work' in the Fine Cell Work Prison Awards.

This is a remarkable achievement of which the involved prisoners, and the prison, should be proud.

7.3 Offender management, progression

- 7.3.1 The Board recognises that managing the progression of prisoners through their sentences involves multiple agencies and requires co-ordinated cross-functional activity. The Board has been disappointed to observe that early in this reporting year it was unclear where the line management responsibilities for aspects of the process were and that, on occasion, there appeared to be little co-ordination or joined up thinking between the agencies. The Board acknowledges that this situation has been improving following senior level appointments.
- 7.3.2 Progress on the declared focus on OASys noted last year has not noticeably improved. Prisoners continue to arrive at HMP Littlehey without an initial OASys assessment (circa 33% according to the HMIP summer 2020 inspection) which delays assessment and access to interventions and accredited programmes such as Kaizen and Horizon.
- 7.3.3 Again, this reporting year continued to show little impact on the backlog of OASys reports, resulting in few prisoners having a suitable sentence plan. The pandemic lockdown has also had a significant impact on prisoners' access to sequencing for purposeful activities, interventions and accredited programmes.
- 7.3.4 The Board recognises that the pandemic has significantly affected progress in this area both by limiting OMU staff access to wings and impacting programmes. The opportunity for OMU staff to engage directly with prisoners has reduced, becoming irregular at best, which has detrimentally affected their ability to proactively address the prisoners' offending behaviour and progression. The lack of interventions and programmes has exacerbated this situation.
- 7.3.5 With the designation of the prison as an outbreak site by Public Health England on 23 March, all programmes were paused. This included Horizon, Kaizen and HSP programmes, together with all programmes work e.g., programmes needs assessments (PNAs) and motivational interviews.

The paused Horizon and Kaizen programmes re-started from May 2020 albeit in an amended one-to-one form on the residential wings rather than the originally designed group sessions in suitably equipped rooms. Twelve of the

14 prisoners affected by the pause in March were able to complete these programmes by September 2020. For those unable to complete and those with insufficient remaining time to access treatments before their release, a treatment needs review (TNR) was completed for actioning by their prison offender manager (POM) and community offender manager (COM).

- 7.3.6 The Board acknowledges the positive efforts made to continue with assessments and programmes at the earliest opportunity. Small group work and programmes assessments restarted in a pandemic-secure manner from July with Horizon and Kaizen programmes in place for a small number of prisoners (four and six respectively) by December 2020. The Board understands the need for these programmes to revert to a one-to-one format delivered on the wings as the second wave of the pandemic took hold in January 2021.
- 7.3.7 The Board also recognises the efforts made to continue parole and re-categorisation boards despite the pandemic lockdown. Although these boards have relied heavily on written reports, the allocation of a teleconferencing room in Woodlands healthcare for the prisoner and their representative to attend their parole hearing virtually is to be commended.

7.4 Family contact

- 7.4.1 Although visits ceased in the early days of the pandemic the Board was pleased to see the prison making efforts to support continuing family contacts with the introduction of Purple (video) Visits in June 2020. These proved to be very popular, with 1,499 undertaken, and the Board hopes they will be continued once the pandemic is over to facilitate regular contact with remote families.
- 7.4.2 The e-mail a prisoner scheme has also proved to be popular, and the correspondence staff should be congratulated for its management.
- 7.4.3 Prisoners on all wings were able to access telephones despite limited time out of cell and the Board acknowledges that HMPPS further supported family contact with a £5 per week pin phone top-up.
- 7.4.4 Prisoner letters financed by the prison were increased from the normal provision of two each week to five.
- 7.4.5 A replacement for Storybook Dads was also introduced. See 7.1.8

7.5 Resettlement planning

- 7.5.1 Despite HMP Littlehey being a training rather than a resettlement prison, significant numbers were released during the reporting period. 291 were released in the 12 months up to 31 January 2021 compared with 402 the previous year ([source: HMPPS Performance Hub](#)).

7.5.2 Table 5 shows that 93 (32%) prisoners were released on a Friday ([source: HMPPS Performance Hub](#)), which the Board considers challenging given the rural location and the need to travel to planned accommodation. Prisoners often relocate to remote or unfamiliar areas and may consequently struggle to make mandated appointment deadlines with their probation officers, for example.

Thirty-four were released to transient accommodation or without accommodation.

Table 5: Releases to premises type

Accommodation on Release	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Approved Premises	28	16	20	24	39	127
Awaiting Assessment	1					1
Friends / Family	13	10	7	13	20	63
Homeless / Transient Accommodation	3	6	5	8	12	34
Householder	4	3	2	4	5	18
Immigration Detention		1				1
Long Term Residential Healthcare	1					1
Rental Accommodation	2	4	6	2	10	24
Supported Housing	2			1	4	7
Not Recorded	3		3	6	3	15
Grand Total	57	40	43	58	93	291

7.5.3 As can be seen from Table 6, 15 (5%) prisoners were released immediately before or during public holiday periods, when public transport restrictions may offer additional challenges, of those, three were released to transient accommodation and one prisoner was homeless ([source: HMPPS Performance Hub](#)).

Table 6: Public holiday releases

Holiday Release	Release Day / Date	Accommodation at Release	Total
Easter	Thursday, 9 April 2020	Approved Premises	1
		Friends/Family (settled)	1
May Day	Friday, 1 May 2020	Approved Premises	1
	Monday, 4 May 2020	Householder (Owner - freehold or leasehold)	1
Spring Bank Holiday	Friday, 22 May 2020	Approved Premises	1
		Friends/Family (settled)	1
		Transient/short term accommodation	1
Christmas	Thursday, 24 December 2020	Approved Premises	1
		Friends/Family (settled)	1
		Transient/short term accommodation	1
		Not Recorded	1
Summer Bank Holiday	Friday, 28 August 2020	Friends/Family (settled)	1
		Friends/Family (transient)	1
New Year	Thursday, 31 December 2020	Approved Premises	1
		Homeless - Other	1
Grand Total			15

7.5.4 Mobile phones are stored securely during custody and returned to their owner upon release, although there are questions as to how useful this is given that these phones could have been stored for some years and therefore be problematic both to charge and to connect to current mobile infrastructure. In

addition, licence terms typically preclude access to the internet on release which rules out the use of most modern mobile devices.

The Board is therefore pleased to understand that HMP Littlehey is investigating the example of other establishments in providing prisoners who are being released with a simple, non-smart, phone and SIM card to overcome communication barriers imposed by licence conditions.

- 7.5.5 The nature of the partnerships between CF03, BeNCH and NACRO, and how they allocate prisoners for resettlement, remains unclear to those being prepared for release.

None of the prisoners interviewed by the Board as part of a 'through the gate' themed rota in late 2020 were aware of any of these partnership organisations, or how they could help their resettlement. Nor were many aware of those within the prison assigned to help with their resettlement and resettlement planning.

- 7.5.6 The Board is disappointed that the reorganisation of staff at HMP Littlehey detrimentally affected the maintenance and distribution of the excellent guide to resettlement initially produced during 2019. The initial guide, produced in colour to aid its accessibility for prisoners, was issued to all within six months of their release. The current version is in black and white and has a limited distribution.

The Board looks forward to seeing this guide re-instated in its original form and used with support from red-band orderlies identifying prisoners who would benefit from receiving it.

8. The work of the IMB

- 8.1.1 During much of the year most members did not come into prison. Some remote monitoring did occur such as dealing with applications using CJSM (the secure email) and monitoring rule 45 reviews by phone. Visits to residential wings, especially induction and elderly wings, were not possible. Feedback about residential issues was very limited. Contact with the CSU and the communications team was maintained weekly by phone and staff in both areas were exceptionally helpful. The management coordinator and the IMB clerk provided excellent and helpful support by regularly forwarding daily briefing sheets, NTRs, residents' newsletters and staff information newsletters.
- 8.1.2 Three members retired from the Board during the year and a recruitment campaign in December 2020 resulted in the appointment of four new members.
- 8.1.3 During the reporting year the Board held all 12 monthly meetings, two by telephone conference, four by Zoom and six face-to-face in a suitable room in the prison.
- 8.1.4 The Board is a good team with varied backgrounds and a range of complementary skills and strengths. It enjoys generally good relations with prisoners and staff evidenced by the number of people who seemed pleased with our increased presence in the latter part of the year.

Board Statistics	
Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the establishment	286
Total number of segregation reviews attended	110

Applications to the IMB

- 8.1.5 Unsurprisingly, IMB applications overall dropped to 199. Many of these were dealt with remotely and during the last few months of the reporting year members who were going into prison answered applications by letter from the IMB office.
- 8.1.6 Of the 22 confidential complaints to the IMB all but one were invalid and could have been answered by prison staff.
- 8.1.7 Property complaints to the IMB, especially regarding other prisons, remain a big issue which HMPPS still needs to adequately address. Prisons are generally poor in responding to external property complaints.

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year 2020	Current reporting year 2021
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	13	21
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	3	8
C	Equality	10	10
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	24	7
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	31	10
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	5	5
F	Food and kitchens	2	0
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	16	13
H1	Property within this establishment	19	16
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	29	25
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	26	10
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates,	28	10
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	24	7
K	Transfers	5	7
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	32	21
	Confidential Access	28	22
	No Show	5	7
Total number of applications:		300	199



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