



wing and basement, A and J wing cellular accommodation mesh and render works and C and D Unit utility cupboard security protection. CCTV was installed on E and F wings plus increased coverage of A, J and G wings in the previous financial year. CCTV will also be installed in the reception and kitchen buildings during the current financial year.

Investments in technology made during the lockdowns will be sustained. The use of technology to support remote learning and facilitate a blended approach to learning will be further developed going forward. HMPPS is working with the Ministry of Justice In-Cell Technology Programme team, prison education suppliers, and Awarding Organisations to prepare the digital infrastructure across the prison estate to ensure readiness to deliver Essential Digital Skills in prisons as part of the Governments' commitment to improving the country's digital literacy skills. The Governor also has the ability to access a wide choice of differing delivery methods through the education provision and online education with the University of Westminster will continue.

The roll out of laptops, as part of the In-Cell Technology Programme, continues at pace and will continue to be deployed in more establishments over the coming months. Additionally a new two-year contract has been awarded to a new supplier to continue the Secure Social Video Calling service which will run alongside the return of face-to-face visits and HMPPS is also in the process of re-procuring prisoner self-service kiosks to ensure that more modern services are available to prisoners across the estate.

Although it has been another challenging reporting period, it was encouraging to receive your comments about the mutual appreciation between staff and prisoners despite the pressures of the pandemic, and the efforts of staff to keep prisoners healthy and occupied. I was also pleased to hear about the successful deployment of the body scanner, the continued use of the award-winning wellbeing centre, the successful association with Liberty Kitchen, and the Butler Trust awards for outstanding tutor and work with Time4Change. I also welcome the appointments of the equality advisor and equality officer to resume this important area of work.

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/YOI Pentonville.

Yours ever,



**VICTORIA ATKINS MP**

## HMP/YOI PENTONVILLE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021

### HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

#### **Refurbishment**

Planned decency-based projects were carried out in the last financial year including works on A, C, E, G and J wing showers. An increase in the showering facilities on E wing was also achieved via the conversion of a storage room. A further £600 thousand worth of decency works has been committed to for delivery during this financial year with an increase of showering facilities on G wing being explored plus the refurbishment of wings C and F, and the Care and Separation Unit.

#### **Future Lockdown Planning**

During the pandemic, restrictions were put in place which restricted the regime. Education delivery was in line with the Exceptional Delivery Models (EDM) process and as the establishment moves towards EDM Stage 1 education provision will increase in line with the easing of restrictions of the wider regime.

Throughout the pandemic HMPPS has been capturing and sharing lessons learned and we continue to gather and share a range of information, including feedback from scrutiny bodies, staff, those in our care and the voluntary sector. We are feeding learning into prison safety and wellbeing initiatives, regime redesign, and planning and ongoing mitigations for prisoners. Prisons are also using lessons learned from the pandemic to adapt provision, reinforce fair and decent behaviours, and to show visible leadership. HMPPS' Scrutiny and Intelligence Unit also routinely reviews external scrutiny and internal assurance reports to draw out good practice and themes which are communicated to prisons and more widely across HMPPS. They also identify where lessons could be learned or implemented more effectively.

#### **Offending Behaviour Programmes**

Further to last year's response, HMP/YOI Pentonville continues to primarily be a reception prison with the main purpose of serving the courts and then moving prisoners to a more suitable establishment post-sentencing. Consequently there are no plans to expand the Offending Behaviour Programme provision at the prison at this time. However, the prison will continue the work with the Time4Change programme for Young Adults and Sycamore Tree will also remain active.

#### **Governor Devolved Powers**

HMPPS continues to keep under review the balance of responsibilities across different areas and levels of the organisation.