



# **Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Littlehey**

**For reporting year  
1 February 2021 – 31 January 2022**

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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 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 sexual 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 (unchanged since the previous period).
- 2.2 552 (48%) of prisoners were aged 50 years or over at the end of the reporting period; the same percentage as the previous period. According to the [Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile, Winter 2022](#) (the 'Factfile'), the national percentage of prisoners aged at least 50 years old remained steady at 17%.<sup>1</sup> At HMP Littlehey, 11% of prisoners were under the age of 30 compared with 16% for the previous period. Of those aged 50 or older, 35.1% (194) were in their 60s and 23.4% (129) were 70 or older (compared with national prison population figures of 25.5% and 12.6% respectively).
- 2.3 The prison housed over 60 nationalities and 29 religious denominations, not including those stating 'no religion', atheist or agnostic.
- 2.4 The prison held 1,158 prisoners at the end of the reporting period (compared with an operational capacity of 1,180 and an average end-of-month population of 1,150). There were 1,098 prisoners held at the end of the previous reporting period, which had an average end-of-month population of 1,136.
- 2.5 There were 948 prisoners accommodated in single-occupancy cells and 210 in double-occupancy cells, of whom two were the sole occupants. Sixty-six cells designed for single occupancy were allocated for sharing by two prisoners. There were four constant watch cells including one in the care and separation unit (CSU).
- 2.6 Healthcare services, including mental health care, were provided by the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, with support from the charity Phoenix Futures for delivering substance misuse programmes. Pharmacy services were provided by Lloyds Pharmacy dental services by Prisoner Centred Dental Care (from 1 April 2021) and social care was provided by Cambridgeshire County Council. Library facilities were provided by Suffolk Libraries and 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.
- 2.7 Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) provided resettlement services, some of which were subcontracted to Nacro, until June 2021. After this time

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<sup>1</sup> [prisonreformtrust.org.uk/publication/bromley-briefings-prison-factfile-winter-2022](https://prisonreformtrust.org.uk/publication/bromley-briefings-prison-factfile-winter-2022)

the Probation Service fulfilled this service, employing two dedicated resettlement officers based at HMP Littlehey for this purpose.

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 The 12 residential wings for the period included a dedicated reception wing, one enhanced wing, 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. G wing had not been replaced by the end of January 2022, having been demolished in 2020.
- 2.10 The residential accommodation, set in extensive well-maintained gardens, had once accommodated two distinct facilities, one for adult men and one a young offender institution (YOI), built at different times and to standards applicable at the time of construction, which can be challenging to the upkeep of the infrastructure, fixtures and fittings. The two are now known as Lakeside and Woodlands respectively. The prison's dual-purpose history is reflected in it having two kitchens, two healthcare centres, two libraries, two gyms, two multi-faith rooms and two all-weather sports pitches. It is further supported by an education facility, workshops, a care and separation unit (CSU) with nine operational cells, 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 2021 to 31 January 2022. It should be noted that for the entire period the prison was subject to severe restrictions in its normal regime and activities due to the necessary response to the coronavirus pandemic. The normal monitoring activities of the Board continued to be limited. As in the previous period, attempts to monitor remotely 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 Despite prisoners' frustrations with continued regime restrictions, HMP Littlehey continued to be a safe and secure prison. There were no major incidents resulting in the opening of the command suite and the prison continued to have a relatively low rate of prisoner-on-prisoner violence.

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

- 3.2.2 With few exceptions prisoners were treated with respect, decency and humanity. In some cases, the prison found it difficult to provide the specialist interventions needed for those with complex needs such as the few prolific self-harmers and those repeatedly housed, or housed long-term, in the CSU.

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

- 3.2.3 The pandemic continued to significantly impact the health and wellbeing needs of the prisoners. This situation was exacerbated by the uncertainties caused with the prison moving between various stages of lockdown as the coronavirus ebbed and flowed during the reporting year. The prison managed the fluctuating situation well and has been recognised for this by a High Sheriff award for 'courage and dedication to their work during times of Covid, keeping colleagues and prisoners safe under challenging circumstances'.
- 3.2.4 Despite the prison's best endeavours to restart non-essential activities at the earliest opportunity, it inevitably had to respond to the dynamic pandemic situation. Prisoner association and time out of cells were also significantly affected which added to the negative impact on prisoners' mental wellbeing, although in-cell education and distraction packs were provided wherever possible to lessen the impact.

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

- 3.2.5 As stated in previous reports, HMP Littlehey is not a resettlement prison and is not funded for this activity although it typically releases significant numbers

of prisoners every year. The Board understands the HMPPS reconfiguration project will reduce the numbers released directly from HMP Littlehey, which may account for the drop from almost 300 during the previous period to slightly over 200 for the current reporting period (source: [HMPPS Performance Hub](#), 4 April 2022).<sup>2</sup>

3.2.6 Given the unfunded challenges and 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 must often be to an area other than their home area, which creates complications for both the prisoners and those charged with supporting their resettlement.

3.2.7 With no replacement for the progression unit (G Wing) during the reporting year, the opportunities for prisoners to develop the personal independence and decision-making skills so helpful for resettlement have been reduced. This, together with the enforced reduction in access to both offending behaviour and one-to-one preparation for release programmes, has resulted in preparation for resettlement being affected during the reporting year.

However, the Board acknowledges that H, M and F Wings have continued to promote such skills, and the work of POMs for prisoners approaching their release when the regime allowed during the reporting year.

3.2.8 Due to pandemic restrictions, there were multiple regime changes at short notice with the curtailment or reduction in prisoner access to face-to-face activities including education, workshops, gym and visits.

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

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

3.3.1 The Board is concerned with the lack of resources provided for resettlement activities which continue to be required of HMP Littlehey. While the Board recognises the reconfiguration project will eventually result in prisoners nearing their sentence end date being moved to specialist resettlement prisons, there will continue to be a need for resettlement services at HMP Littlehey for those being released on parole. Does the minister acknowledge this situation and will funding for it be provided?

3.3.2 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***

3.3.3 The Board is aware that development of the prisoners' property policy framework was affected by the pandemic and that a draft has been circulated to stakeholders who provided comment for consideration, but it is

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<sup>2</sup> hmpps-performance-hub.service.justice.gov.uk

disappointing to note that the new framework had not been published before the end of the reporting period.

- 3.3.4 In response to the report of the previous period, HMPPS stated that publication was expected in early 2022. The Board therefore looks forward to witnessing the long-overdue improvements it promises, as property continues to be the area most complained about, and recognised as such, across the prison estate, including improved and more timely responses from other establishments.
- 3.3.5 Prisons are generally poor in responding to external complaints, and the Board is curious to understand from HMPPS whether it is something against which prison performance is measured.
- 3.3.6 The Board is disappointed that the replacement for G wing (after it was condemned by HMPPS in 2020) is taking so long and is concerned that it suggests a lack of adequate funding and planning.
- 3.3.7 Further, the Board is perplexed that the planned replacement is to be sited in an area next to the market gardens that is currently occupied by an astro-turfed football pitch, thus reducing the prison sport facilities and wasting previous investment while the site previously housing the demolished G wing is left as unsightly waste ground.
- 3.3.8 The Board is also concerned that the planned replacement reportedly lacks adequate roofing. It would therefore appear to suffer similar issues to those experienced in early 2020 when with the previous temporary wing (N wing).
- 3.3.9 Why is the Prison Service looking to replace a permanent wing with a temporary structure when it is known that this additional capacity will be a long-term requirement?
- 3.3.10 The Board is concerned with the continuing use of temporary freezers at HMP Littlehey (see 5.1.5). This unacceptable situation has been ongoing for more than two years and has been highlighted in previous IMB annual reports. The costs and health and safety risks created by this situation impact the efficiency of the service provided by the kitchens and continue to waste financial resources that could be used more productively. When will this situation be resolved?
- 3.3.11 The Board is aware of the rollout of in-cell telephones across the prison estate and is concerned with the length of time it is taking for HMP Littlehey to have this facility. The delay is leading to an increasing issue of prisoners transferring from category B regimes feeling that their situation has worsened because their previous establishment had in-cell phones and HMP Littlehey does not. The Board therefore asks when this facility will be implemented at HMP Littlehey.



## **TO THE GOVERNOR**

- 3.3.12 While the Board acknowledges that significant progress has been made, and continues to be made, in providing suitable resources and surroundings for the elderly population on the two older prisoner wings, there is an open question of how and when such improvements will be available to all the elderly prisoners across HMP Littlehey.
- 3.3.13 The Board recognises the encouragement of mobility amongst the older prisoner population and the positive impact this has made, however it also recognises that some of the prison population will continue to need to use wheelchairs. As referenced in previous reports the Board believes the maintenance of these aids needs specific focus to resolve this ongoing issue.
- 3.3.14 With the challenges of multiple lockdowns and regime changes, together with changes in governor responsibilities during 2021, the Board has observed that progress on understanding the equality issues at HMP Littlehey and embedding diversity and inclusion within the prison has not progressed as much as anticipated given the progress during the previous reporting year.
- 3.3.15 HMP Littlehey has many used mattresses, stored in sterile areas, which are proving difficult to dispose of because recycling units elsewhere in the prison estate do not have unlimited capacity. Recycling issues aside, the Board questions whether the excess also results from a lack of published guidance for wing staff when deciding to issue a new mattress, or poor-quality mattresses needing to be replaced too frequently.

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

- 3.4.1 The Board is pleased that the heating and hot water infrastructure project which commenced during the last reporting year is being progressed largely to the timescales agreed. The Board recognises that the project continues to be ongoing but is pleased to see the benefits of the work completed so far.
- 3.4.2 The prison has been proactive in addressing the needs of its older prisoner population and has worked collaboratively with all stakeholders to create an appropriate environment on the two older prisoner wings.
- 3.4.3 The prison has shown agility in its responsiveness to the continuing changes to regime required by the pandemic so that prisoners were kept as safe as possible. It has worked closely with healthcare to successfully roll out the vaccination programme, resulting in over 90% of the prison population being vaccinated.

## 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 introduced, after being compiled during the previous period. This ensured new arrivals to the prison were effectively screened and protocols to manage their initial isolation were in place to minimise the potential of the virus being introduced to the prison population.
- 4.1.2 According to prison records, the numbers of transfers to and from the prison have fluctuated during the pandemic, with numbers per week varying between zero and 20, with transfer protocols restricting arrivals to a maximum of six at a time (followed most of the time). On those occasions when the maximum has been exceeded, the situation has been managed by holding prisoners in excess of six in reception while the first six were processed in the induction wing. Whilst not ideal this has protected both the new arrivals and those already in situ at the prison.
- 4.1.3 During the reporting period, 441 prisoners transferred into Littlehey, 113 (25.6%) of them after the 'lockout time' of 16:00, not helped by Serco not always giving accurate estimates of arrival times. Those arriving late were given 'basics' before being moved to the induction wing to be fully processed the next day. Late arrivals always saw healthcare and an induction wing officer on their day of arrival, as a minimum.
- 4.1.4 Although transfer data is increasingly computerised there was still a reliance on paper records, for example, the person escort records (PERs) which travel with prisoners. In some cases, evidence of transferring property was not part of the computerised record but was on paper travelling with the transferring prisoner, causing delay on arrival and a source of frustration for prisoners and staff.

#### 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 2022](#), the annual rate of deaths due to natural causes rose from 2.2 per 1,000 prisoners (0.22%) to 3.6 (0.36%) since their winter 2021 edition. During the reporting year in HMP Littlehey there were 14 deaths in custody, all due to natural causes, equating to 1.2% per 1,000 (with the prison having an average end-of-month population of 1,150 for the period). There were 17 deaths during the previous reporting period, representing 1.5%.
- 4.2.2 While HMP Littlehey houses three times as many prisoners over 50 than the national average, the number of deaths through natural causes remains slightly over three times the national rate (1.2% compared with 0.36%).

4.2.3 The Board recognises that it is difficult to draw direct comparisons as the [Factfile](#) does not cover the entire period of this report, but believes that the rate per 1,000 is close to what should be expected given the age profile of the population at HMP Littlehey.

4.2.4 During the reporting period, two Prisons & Probation Ombudsman (PPO) investigations into prisoner deaths uncovered concerns with safeguarding and procedures between healthcare and prison staff, which left elderly prisoners in an unsafe condition (note that the reports received during the reporting period may relate to deaths in earlier periods).

The PPO made safeguarding recommendations which have been accepted and acted upon.

4.2.5 The Board is pleased to note that HMP Littlehey continues to participate in the Samaritans' Listener scheme, which plays an invaluable role in making the prison safer by being there for those struggling to cope. There were 19 active Listeners on the rota for the last month of the reporting period, and the team were called upon over 250 times during the reporting year.

4.2.6 The Board is also pleased to note that the total number of self-harm incidents decreased from 480 to 452 since the previous period. There remain a small number of prisoners that are difficult to help despite the best endeavours of the prison in supporting them and encouraging changes of behaviour. These individuals were responsible for over 230 incidents between them.

4.2.7 Setting aside the few difficult-to-help prisoners, there were a total of 219 self-harm incidents, or 190 per 1,000 prisoners, which continues to compare very favourably with that across the whole prison estate. The national rate was 741 incidents per 1,000 prisoners for the 12 months ending June 2020, increasing by 16% for the 12 months ending June 2021 according to the [Factfile](#) (the second highest on record). Discounting the few very troubled individuals, those involved in self-harm are overwhelmingly white, accounting for 96% of self-harm incidents despite being 78% of the population.

4.2.8 The Board notes that the number of ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork) documents opened during the period fell to 90 from 109 during the previous period.

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

4.3.1 HMP Littlehey continues to be a relatively safe place for staff and prisoners alike. Prison records show that the number of assaults on staff fell from 31 for the previous reporting period to 24 for the current period, which reflects the national downward trend. Unfortunately, prisoner-on-prisoner assaults rose from 34 to 42 over the same period (including fights, alleged sexual assaults and violent assaults). Equating to 37 per 1,000 prisoners, and a disappointing increase, it continues to be significantly less than the national rate of c.300 per 1,000 reported by the [Factfile](#).

## **4.4 Use of force**

- 4.4.1 According to the prison records, force was used 156 times during the reporting period, an increase of almost 30% on the previous period. It is worthy of note that the number of prisoners involved fell from 69 to 60, a small number of whom were involved in over 40 incidents between them.
- 4.4.2 Discounting those few difficult-to-manage individuals, force was used 114 times compared with 108 times during the previous period (similarly adjusted). The Board notes that batons were drawn on one occasion but not used. PAVA spray was not drawn during any of the recorded incidents.
- 4.4.3 [The Guardian](#) reported under a Freedom of Information Act request in January 2021 that the national use of force rate was 59.1 incidents per 100 prisoners. While that data is now stale (more up to date statistics could not be found), HMP Littlehey's rate of 13.6 incidents per 100 continues to compare favourably.
- 4.4.4 The Board notes that the use of force incidents that it directly monitored during the period were conducted appropriately and professionally, including the recorded briefings and debriefings. Care was taken to ensure the safety of the prisoners and the staff involved, including the presence of healthcare staff.
- 4.4.5 The National Tactical Response Group, a specialist unit assisting in safely managing and resolving serious incidents, was not deployed to HMP Littlehey during the period.
- 4.4.6 The Board is pleased to report that the improvements in use of force record-keeping at HMP Littlehey, noted in the previous report, has been maintained.

## **4.5 Preventing illicit items**

- 4.5.1 Mandatory drug testing (MDT) was stopped during the previous period in response to the pandemic, starting again in May 2021. During the remainder of the reporting period, over 300 MDTs resulted in 25 positive results, 12 of which were due to prescription medication. Searches resulted in drugs and fermenting liquids being found on 23 and 18 occasions respectively.

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

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

- 5.1.1 There is a distinct difference between parts of the prison. Lakeside consists of older buildings while accommodation on Woodlands is much newer, although not without its problems over the years. The older residential wings, which include 66 double cells, some designed for single use, have communal shower facilities on each landing. The induction wing mirrors this system and is all double cells for c.90 prisoners. Careful cell risk assessments are made by staff and the Board is pleased to note very few complaints are made about this process and any issues appear to be dealt with in a timely and effective manner. Issues with water temperature and pressure problems still occur periodically on some wings.
- 5.1.2 Each wing has telephones situated on the landings for prisoners to use during their 'domestic' time. With the restricted time permitted out of cell each day due to the pandemic regimes in place, prisoner access to these phones was much more limited than under a normal regime. This situation was exacerbated by ongoing faults with specific phones. During the year there were therefore frustrations for prisoners who, due the pandemic, were even more anxious to maintain their family links. These frustrations were made worse with prisoners becoming aware that other prisons now had in-cell phones and that no date for such phones was known for HMP Littlehey.
- 5.1.3 If they have sufficient funding, prisoners can wear their own clothes, providing they conform to the facilities list and are purchased via approved providers. Prison-issued clothing is available for those with limited financial means. Prisoners will also be issued clothing for specific roles e.g. whites for servery workers, outside clothing for garden workers, special clothes for industrial cleaners and specific polo shirts designated for particular roles such as Listeners and healthcare orderlies.
- 5.1.4 Domestic washing machines and driers are on all landings, and wing orderlies take responsibility for organising the cleaning of prisoners' personal clothing with one bag of washing per week per prisoner. Bio washes for badly soiled clothing are also available. Again, complaints are few and far between. These washes complement the operation of the clothing exchange store run by GFSL, which continues to send up to 80 bags of clothing, bedding and towels to another prison's laundry facility. The Board feels that a prison of this size could provide a cheaper in-house solution.
- 5.1.5 The standard of food provided by the two kitchens continues to be of high quality. In addition, the menu selections available and the responsiveness to meet individual prisoner dietary needs has continued to be impressive. All this has been delivered despite the ongoing issues with freezers and significant staffing issues and the Board commends the leadership in the kitchens for this.

5.1.6 The Board noted the freezer issues in last year's report. It is appalled that the high numbers of temporary freezers in place, parked on the hard standing outside the kitchens, remains high. Little progress appears to have been made this year in resolving this issue. The Board notes the significant detrimental effect of the ongoing situation with freezers, the large costs involved and the health and safety issues during bad weather.

5.1.7 During the first part of the reporting period, the pandemic regime resulted in the cancellation of prisoner representative meetings such as the Prison Council and the Food Forum.

## **5.2 Segregation**

5.2.1 The care and separation unit is situated in the older part of the prison with basic accommodation. Carefully chosen officers show tolerance and humour, managing some often very difficult prisoners in a professional manner.

5.2.2 Only eight cells are available to hold prisoners with cell 1 used only for searches, cell 7 used for constant watch and cell 9 remaining out of use due to structural issues for at least the last two years. This situation remains since our last report and there are no apparent plans to remedy it.

5.2.3 For the third year in a row the Board maintains that this area is far from suitable 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 rule 45 and ACCT reviews i.e. planning, rehabilitation and reintegration.

## **5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships, key workers**

5.3.1 The prison's plans to relaunch the key worker scheme have been significantly compromised by the constantly changing restrictions required by the pandemic. This has resulted in very little progress being made in providing the quality of key worker meetings that had been planned by the Governor and her team. The enforced delays have, however, been used constructively to provide additional training to staff in this area which the Board hope will enable key work to be quickly rolled out in future when the regime allows.

5.3.2 It is to be noted that prisoners are often positive when commenting on the help and support they are given by their wing officers, although such comments are often given about specific officers rather than the wing staff as a whole.

## **5.4 Equality and diversity**

5.4.1 The Board notes that despite the fluctuations and regime changes necessitated by the pandemic and the changes in leadership for diversity and inclusion (D&I) in the prison, the diversity and inclusion action team (DIAT)

meetings have generally continued to take place, albeit with limited numbers of prisoner representatives. It has also been encouraging to see focus being given to equalities within the prison, with a D&I manager in place from November 2021 and governors appointed to lead activity for each of the protected characteristics (PC) identified under the 2010 Equality Act. The Board is, however, disappointed to note that action plans for each PC were not in place by the deadline date initially set (end November 2021) and some remained outstanding by the end of January 2022.

- 5.4.2 The Board is pleased to note that the use of D&I data has begun to move on, albeit at a slower pace than expected after the significant progress made last year. There is more questioning of what the data is saying and some deeper analysis where the initial data indicates a possible issue exists. The intention to disseminate relevant D&I data to the wider prison population to inform them is also positive. However, the amount of data presented at each DIAT meeting remains large with little discussion on any particular aspect taking place.
- 5.4.3 It is recognised that the fluctuating restrictions dictated by the pandemic impacted significantly on the ability of D&I representatives to carry out their roles across the prison. This resulted in some prisoners not being able to access this support due to restricted prisoner movements. This situation was not helped by the lack of access to office resources for the D&I representatives for a significant part of the year, making it difficult for them to provide written communications with prisoners.
- 5.4.4 Despite the pandemic restrictions, the prison continued to encourage a range of cultural events celebrating diversity. As commented on last year, of particular note is the proactivity of the catering department in providing meals which meet the needs of the diverse prisoner population.

### **Older prisoners**

- 5.4.5 The over-50s comprised 48% of the population at the end of the period, with over 17% being 65 or over, both unchanged from the previous period. The Board is pleased to note that HMP Littlehey has continued to be proactive in seeking to meet the needs of its older prisoners. Working with prisoner representatives and specialists, including social care and those with expertise on dementia, the two older prisoner wings have seen changes to make them more appropriate to their population. The results from an IMB survey conducted in December 2021 to capture the experience of prisoners on these two wings prisoners shows that the prisoners were appreciative of this activity and felt the wing provided a quiet, friendly, supportive and safe environment for them.
- 5.4.6 The results from the survey also showed that although the prisoners disliked being locked up for such long periods of time, they recognised that it was necessary to keep them safe. However, because of the continuing restrictive regime that has existed for the majority of this reporting year, there has been no progress in increasing the provision of purposeful activity for this age group.

5.4.7 Table 1a shows the number of prisoners without formally allocated activity as at the end of the reporting period. While the percentage of completely unallocated 65 and older prisoners fell from 54.9% during the period, it remained high at almost 50%. While the percentage of those in this age group who were unassigned for half days fell since the last reporting period (table 1b), the change was modest (from 23.9% to 21.7%).

**Table 1a: Number (% of age group) of unassigned prisoners in each age group, 2021 - 2022.**

Age Range	No. of Prisoners	Unassigned Half Day	Unassigned Full Day
18 - 25	50	6 (12.0%)	15 (30.0%)
26 - 30	113	10 (8.8%)	12 (10.6%)
31 - 40	242	27 (11.2%)	35 (14.5%)
41 - 50	219	18 (8.2%)	35 (16.0%)
51 - 64	317	29 (9.1%)	67 (21.1%)
65 and over	217	47 (21.7%)	108 (49.8%)
	1,158	137 (11.8%)	272 (23.5%)

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

Age Range	No. of Prisoners	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%)

5.4.8 The maintenance of wheelchairs was highlighted in previous annual reports and continued to be an issue during this reporting year. The initiative to encourage prisoners to be mobile rather than rely on using a wheelchair has been largely successful, however the need for working wheelchairs remains important to move prisoners with limited mobility quickly in an emergency (e.g. emergency evacuations). The repair of this equipment therefore remains important and is still problematic.

### **Learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD)**

5.4.9 Over 32% of the prison population is recorded as having a disability and the Board is pleased to see that the prison, together with PeoplePlus, the education provider, has continued the activities commenced last year aimed at the inclusion of prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities. This has included diagnostic assessment and LDD screening so that in-cell education packs could be individualised to the learner.

5.4.10 The Board has been pleased to see that some progress has been made in raising awareness amongst the senior leadership team (SLT) and staff of the needs of those with hearing impairment, with specialists visiting the site and providing some basic sign language training. It hopes to see further initiatives in the future.



## Black, Asian or minority ethnic prisoners

5.4.11 The ethnic mix in HMP Littlehey has changed little since the last reporting period. Tables 2a and 2b show something of a rebalance of the proportion of adjudications by ethnicity, which is encouraging. Note, however, that some prisoners will be more challenging than others for a variety of reasons including issues of mental health. Removing those with over 20 adjudications each results in 8.1% Asian, 19.3% Black, 8% Mixed / Other and 64.6% White, which suggests that the Black population remains over-represented.

**Table 2a: Proportion of adjudications and complaints the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of HMP Littlehey (2021 - 2022)**

Ethnicity	Proportion of Population	Proportion of Adjudications	Proportion of Complaints
Asian	8.3%	7.4%	11.9%
Black	10.5%	17.5%	11.0%
Mixed / Other	3.5%	7.2%	5.2%
White	77.6%	67.9%	71.9%
	100%	100%	100%

**Table 2b: Proportion of adjudications and complaints the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of HMP 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%

The proportion of complaints by ethnicity has changed little from the previous period and is broadly in line with the proportion in the population.

5.4.12 Worthy of note is that adjudications of Muslim prisoners accounted for 28.7% of the total, while Muslims represent only 11.8% of the population. Removing those with over 20 adjudications each only reduces that very slightly to 27.1%, which is a concern and cause for continued monitoring.

5.4.13 Tables 3a and 3b demonstrate a shift from the previous period's over-representation of the Black community in the use of force, which the Board finds encouraging. As noted above, some prisoners are more challenging than most, and removing those with more than five occurrences results in the Black community being the subject of 26.5% of use of force incidents (Asian:7.14%, Mixed/Other:6.1% and White:60.2%). While not as encouraging as it seemed at first, this is certainly in the right direction and the Board hopes that the trajectory continues.

**Table 3a: Proportion of adjudications, complaints and use of force in the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of HMP Littlehey (2021 - 2022)**

Ethnicity	Proportion of Population	Proportion of Adjudications	Proportion of Complaints	Proportion of Use of Force
Asian	8.3%	7.4%	11.9%	4.5%
Black	10.5%	17.5%	11.0%	16.7%
Mixed / Other	3.5%	7.2%	5.2%	9.0%
White	77.6%	67.9%	71.9%	69.9%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 3b: Proportion of adjudications, complaints and use of force in the reporting year by ethnicity (where known) versus proportion of the population of HMP 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%

5.4.14 More concerning is that the Muslim community was subject to force on 42 occasions during the period, representing 26.9% of the total despite being only 11.8% of the prison's population. Discounting those subjected to more than five incidents increases the Muslim representation to 34.7%. Although the Board recognises the relatively limited sample size over the period (compared to many other prisons), this is a cause for continued monitoring.

## 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 lockdowns. This has included the use of iPads to enable prisoners to join webcasts of funerals. With the high number of deaths within the prison, the chaplaincy has also been very supportive to those remaining on the wings most affected by these deaths. This support has been well received by the older prisoners who were the most impacted.

5.5.2 Throughout the year general pastoral support and support for those on ACCT documents has been maintained. Wings were visited frequently to see where support was needed, and the chaplaincy were always able to speak to prisoners face-to-face when needed unless infection prevented that.

5.5.3 The chaplaincy reacted quickly to the changing regimes necessitated by the pandemic to ensure that prisoners were able to practise their faith on a regular basis. At the beginning of the reporting period there were no in-person services. These began again during the first week of May, with initially a limit of 10 people attending and socially distanced. Social distancing remained in place over the whole period no matter what size of meeting was allowed.

Gradually more people were allowed to attend – often only those from one wing only, which included the run-up to Christmas and Christmas itself. Faith-based teaching and resources continued to be supplied to about 500 prisoners on a weekly basis.

5.5.4 When the regime permitted, all faiths had the opportunity to engage in a weekly act of worship except for Christians and Muslims. These latter two groups were covered on a rota basis due to the larger numbers involved and the restrictions on the size of collective gatherings permitted by the regime in place.

5.5.5 The impact of the restricted size of the collective gatherings, and the rota system for the two numerically larger groups, was offset as far as possible by offering multiple services over the weekends.

## 5.6 Incentives schemes

5.6.1 A new HMPPS incentives policy framework was released in 2019, however its impact during this reporting year has been minimal largely due to the continuing HMPPS guidelines covering prisoners during the pandemic restrictions.

5.6.2 The Board is aware that work has been undertaken to engage with prisoners who may qualify for gold status but have, to date, chosen not to request this uplift from silver. It looks forward to seeing the outcomes of this engagement in the future.

## 5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 The number of complaints and appeals was largely unchanged from the previous period: see tables 4a and 4b. The main change was the reduction of confidential access complaints to the prison, from 418 to 338, which is encouraging.

**Table 4a: Complaints (Comp 1), appeals (Comp 1a) and Confidential Access (Comp 2) in reporting year 2021 – 2022**

Establishment	Comp 1	Comp 1a	Comp 2		Grand Total
			HMPPS	IMB	
Internal	1,994	418	338	22	2,772
Outbound <sup>1</sup>	231	54			285
External Inbound <sup>2</sup>	43	7			50
Grand Total	2,268	479	338	22	3,107

**Table 4b: Complaints (Comp 1), appeals (Comp 1a) and Confidential Access (Comp 2) in reporting year 2020 – 2021**

Establishment	Comp 1	Comp 1a	Comp 2		Grand Total
			HMPPS	IMB	
Internal	2,029	409	418	22	2,878
Outbound <sup>1</sup>	232	40			272
External Inbound <sup>2</sup>	38	6			44
Grand Total	2,299	455	418	22	3,194

<sup>1</sup> Prisoners in HMP Littlehey complaining to other prisons

<sup>2</sup> Prisoners in other prisons complaining to HMP Littlehey

- 5.7.2 The Board recognises that the number of outbound complaints will, in part, be a function of the numbers of transfers from other establishments but notes that HMP Isle of Wight accounts for 51 of the 285 complaints (including appeals) to other prisons from HMP Littlehey (17.9%). Complaints to HMP Peterborough numbered 39 (13.7%), while HMP Bedford and HMP Chelmsford were 21 each (7.4%). Transfers from those establishments during the period were 4 (0.9%), 33 (7.5%), 33 (7.5%) and 31 (7%) respectively. On the other hand, there were 94 transfers from HMP High Down, for example, representing 21.3% of the total but giving rise to only 3.5% of the outbound complaints.
- 5.7.3 Note: Complaints in one period may relate to events in the previous period, so transfers during the reporting period may not readily equate to complaints raised during the same period. Nonetheless, it appears that some establishments give rise to a disproportionate number of outbound complaints compared to others.

## **5.8 Property**

- 5.8.1 The Board is disappointed that the Prison Service remains unable to properly manage prisoners' property when transferring between prisons and continues to be as frustrated as the prisoners. Of the 285 complaints/appeals to other establishments, 143 related to property; an increase to 50.2% of the total, up from 42.7% for the previous period. There were 12 complaints about property to HMP Littlehey from other establishments, representing 24% of the total of 50 (see table 4a).
- 5.8.2 Outbound complaints about property follow a similar pattern as described in section 5.7.2, above. Property complaints to HMP Isle of Wight and HMP Chelmsford were 10.5% of the total. HMP Bedford accounted for 9% and Peterborough for 8.4% (as did HMP Pentonville).

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare general**

- 6.1.1 Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is contracted to provide both physical and mental health services to HMP Littlehey with Prisoner Centred Dental Care responsible for dental services. The Board is pleased to note that these services continue to work cooperatively with the prisoners, who benefit from seamless healthcare services. It also recognises the priority to keep prisoners safe during the fluctuations of the pandemic has affected the delivery of healthcare services with the majority being maintained at an essential and emergency level.
- 6.1.2 The Board is pleased to note that primary and mental health staffing levels have been less of a challenge than last year with fewer vacancies and pandemic-related working days lost, although some services have been affected. Primary care nurse services have been maintained by engaging bank staff to backfill vacancies, but physiotherapy services operated for most of the year at 50%. It is noted that this service was fully staffed by January 2022. The Board is also pleased to see the appointment of a new older adults lead from October 2021 to bring further focus to this very important aspect of healthcare given the prisoner profile at HMP Littlehey.
- 6.1.3 Throughout the year the healthcare team worked well with the prison staff to respond rapidly to keep prisoners as safe as possible throughout the changing pandemic requirements. They showed agility in ensuring prisoners continued to receive both their medication and access to medical consultations and treatment, which included healthcare staff reintroducing on-wing deliveries and consultations when needed due to isolation practices.
- 6.1.4 Healthcare saw 403 prisoners transferred to HMP Littlehey and attended 483 ACCT reviews between April 2021 and January 2022. Both were an increase of almost 27% on the same period last year. They also attended rule 45 reviews and conducted daily CSU visits.
- 6.1.5 The average monthly number of healthcare complaints received during the 2021-22 year has increased when compared to last year from c.13 to 16.9. The percentage of these relating to the care provided or medication issues remains similar to last year (67% 2021-22 compared to 70% 2020-21). Unlike last year, there were very few complaints related to the pandemic.

### **6.2 Physical healthcare**

- 6.2.1 Routine clinics recommenced from mid-May 2021 for most healthcare services with GP clinics recommencing slightly later in June 2021. The Board is pleased to note that once clinics recommenced virtually all ran as planned. The most notable exception to this was physiotherapy where 40 clinics were cancelled between June and December 2021. This is consistent with the ongoing staffing issue in this area noted in 6.1.2 above.

- 6.2.2 The numbers of prisoners who did not attend their appointments (DNAs) fluctuated during this reporting year and ranged from a low of 2.5% of appointments seen in April 2021 to a high of over 13% in December 2021. The Board is concerned to see that for most services provided the trend in DNAs is upward, with the last quarter of the reporting year showing the highest numbers.
- 6.2.3 Similarly to the external community, the cancellations of routine medical procedures and delays in treatment have resulted in a large backlog of healthcare requirements. Although healthcare has endeavoured to address these issues when not responding to pandemic priorities, the waiting times for these non-urgent and routine procedures remain significant. There is a minimum of three weeks wait for podiatry and physiotherapy, three months wait for ultrasound and optician. By the end of the reporting period the wait time for non-urgent dental treatment had risen to six months. The Board acknowledges that provision has now been put in place to reduce these times and looks forward to seeing prisoners seen more quickly in 2022.
- 6.2.4 The Board recognises that throughout the reporting year healthcare has needed to prioritise activities designed to contain the effects of the pandemic in the prison and has worked closely and cooperatively with prison staff to this end. Of particular note is the success of the vaccination programme which has seen over 90% of the prison population double vaccinated by January 2022. The Board acknowledges that this extremely high rate has been achieved through healthcare engaging with prisoners and staff to ensure everyone had access to the information about the vaccine and were able to ask questions so that they could make their own informed decision on vaccination.

### **6.3 Mental health**

- 6.3.1 The mental health team's caseload was slightly higher than last year and ranged from 63 at the beginning of the year to 72 in the late autumn before reducing to 67 by the end of the reporting year. In addition to managing their caseload the team addressed an average of 32 referrals and conducted an average of 117 mental health reviews each month. The Board was pleased to see that an additional fixed-term mental health support worker was appointed in December 2021 to assist the team in managing this caseload.
- 6.3.2 Until the appointment of a psychiatrist to the HMP Littlehey mental health team in September 2021, the team was supported by a Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust psychiatrist. This significantly reduced the number of appointments that could be accommodated and resulted in only five or six appointments per month. The Board was pleased to see that this increased four-fold once the team was fully staffed. The Board is however concerned that over the year more than 100 psychology clinics were unable to take place due to staffing. It hopes that this situation will show improvement next year.

- 6.3.3 The Board is pleased to see that the provision of self-help guides, initially introduced due to the pandemic lockdowns, has now become part of the service provided by the mental health team. The Board also commends the team for the success it has had in reducing its waiting times back down to five days from the unprecedented high of 42 in December 2020 referenced in last year's report.

#### **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, with all essential care provision continuing throughout the reporting period, including the four social care visits each day required for palliative care.
- 6.4.2 Over 7% of the prison population is on a care plan and the Board is encouraged to see the extremely positive relationship between the prison, healthcare, and the social care service provider. By working closely together they have proactively met the needs of their vulnerable population. It is to be noted that the prisoners were very appreciative of the care they have received, especially within the context of the pandemic.
- 6.4.3 The Board has seen the positive outcome from the multi-disciplinary approach of prison, healthcare and social care and is pleased to see that an additional disabled cell has now been assigned on one of the older prisoner wings.
- 6.4.4 While the Board has been encouraged by the implementation of technical aids (wristwatch, mattress alarms, etc.) to assist vulnerable prisoners, it is disappointed to see that not all those who are identified as having fall risks have such alarms.
- 6.4.5 The Board is also encouraged by the improvements made to ensure prisoner safeguarding with the introduction of three-hourly overnight checks for those on the two older person wings, the provision of a safeguarding policy and the appointment of a safeguarding lead on the SLT.

#### **6.5 Exercise, regime**

- 6.5.1 No national audit took place during the pandemic. HMP Littlehey was the top performing prison with its PE/exercise regime for several years prior to the pandemic. Staff continued to show a positive, enthusiastic and flexible approach to their work.
- 6.5.2 Weights rooms were repurposed in May 2021 to maximise space and meet social distancing requirements.
- 6.5.3 PE provision was increased for the older prisoner population. An outside walking activity was initiated on the one accessible all-weather facility to enable the older population to have more exercise since this was considered a high-risk group, with 20-30 prisoners per session.

- 6.5.4 In-cell exercise packs for the older population were also initiated after individual assessments were made for prisoners.
- 6.5.5 PE also ran separate rehabilitation clinics for both staff and prisoners who had suffered from Covid.
- 6.5.6 It is disappointing to note that staff facilities in the older Lakeside gymnasium continue to be in a poor state of repair with potential health and safety implications.
- 6.5.7 Post-May 2021 all prisoners were able to access gym activities which took place in wing 'bubbles'. This helped to support the prison regime by giving prisoners longer periods out of their cells.

## **6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation**

- 6.6.1 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. They occupy several offices in one of the residential wings. There are seven team members at HMP Littlehey, and one service manager who also covers HMP Whitemoor.
- 6.6.2 Prisoners are introduced to the ISMT as part of their induction and may choose to engage to help them deal with their substance misuse issues. They can otherwise voluntarily engage at any time. Those that fail tests for illicit drugs or are found in possession of fermented liquids are referred by the prison.
- 6.6.3 The needs of those arriving at HMP Littlehey already taking prescription methadone, for example, were met by the integrated drug treatment service (IDTS – part of healthcare), working in partnership with the ISMT.
- 6.6.4 Measures taken to limit the effects of the pandemic meant that there were fewer opportunities for drugs to be brought into HMP Littlehey which contributed to reduced drug use. Unfortunately, they also reduced face-to-face prisoner contact with rehabilitation services other than for those on the wing which houses the ISMT offices. In many cases, face-to-face contact was replaced with a booklet-style delivery for completion in the prisoners' cells. Despite the challenges, including the pandemic's impact on team members, the ISMT met their targets for those being inducted and referred, which is to be commended.
- 6.6.5 Intensive multi-week programmes delivered by the ISMT continued throughout the period, albeit only part of a prisoner's work with their case manager (which includes the development of release plans, post-release strategies and goals, and making appointments with external agencies to facilitate post-release progress for those approaching the end of their sentence).
- 6.6.6 Caseloads increased during the period from the previous historical low of 104 active cases, and the Board looks forward to a full resumption of face-to-face



engagement and the re-establishment of the drop-in service that had started shortly before the pandemic began, and which we understand had been positively received.

## **6.7 Soft skills**

- 6.7.1 'Soft skills' activities were again offered during the reporting year such as in-cell packs not leading to exam board qualifications.
- 6.7.2 When possible, prisoners were able to benefit from a range of extra-curricular activities including the Irene Taylor Trust music workshops and the Synergy Theatre Project scriptwriting and performance workshops.
- 6.7.3 The Board also acknowledges and commends those prisoners at Littlehey who have again distinguished themselves with a large number of worthy entries to the Koestler Awards scheme. There were 62 commendations for Littlehey (one of the largest entries), including 19 cash prizes and three platinum awards for works such as paintings, poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing, print and music composition.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 Education is provided by PeoplePlus. Due to the coronavirus, much face-to-face classroom delivery did not take place until a partial restart in May 2021. Prison leaders did ensure that prisoners could access at least in-cell learning, and after local risk assessments, the prison was one of the first in the country to run exams with the support and help of prison instructors who trained as invigilators.

7.1.2 The most recent self-assessment report, published retrospectively in May 2022 concerning the previous year (2021/22) was honestly self-critical in its conclusions:

- Quality of education, skills and work – Grade 3, requires improvement
- Leadership and management – Grade 3
- Personal development – Grade 3
- Behaviours and attitudes – Grade 2, good
- Overall effectiveness 2021-2022 – Grade 3, requires improvement

The Board hopes this will inform the work and progress of the education team who experienced management changes during the reporting period.

7.1.3 Based on Board observations, we acknowledge the key strengths outlined in the report particularly about learner attendance and punctuality. Education, skills and work areas were ordered, calm and positive working environments. Respectful relationships exist between staff and learners. Prisoners are productive and professional. A 95% attendance rate was established across education, work and skills.

7.1.4 The Board is pleased that the areas for improvement have been identified for the quality improvement plan which includes support for neurodiverse learners, effective use of progress skills tracking, development of information, advice and guidance eservices, quality assurance processes and observations.

7.1.5 The Board congratulates the prison for the reintroduction of their celebration of success events led by the Governor, which recognises achievement and sees the presentation of certificates.

7.1.6 As of January 2022 there were approximately 65 learners on distance learning and Open University courses.

### **Library**

7.1.7 Suffolk Libraries hold the contract for providing library services to HMP Littlehey and some service was provided throughout the year. The services were significantly impacted by the pandemic regime and staffing issues. This resulted in only Woodlands library reopening from May 2021. The situation

was not helped when the library manager left her post in January 2022 with no replacement in situ by the end of the reporting year.

- 7.1.8 Outreach services continued for Lakeside library all year and for Woodlands library when the library had to close due to pandemic regime requirements. This service enabled prisoners to request library items via a form and have these items delivered to, and collected from, their wing. During the reporting year almost 90% of the c.3,000 library requests used this service.
- 7.1.9 Throughout the year the libraries followed the pandemic guidance with strict quarantining of library items returned prior to reissuing and restrictions on the numbers of prisoners accessing Woodlands library, when it was open, to ensure social distancing.
- 7.1.10 The Board is pleased to note that, when the regime permitted, Storybook Dads continued, albeit on reduced numbers. It was also pleased to see the involvement in National Libraries Week in October 2021, with prisoners being asked to write about their favourite book.
- 7.1.11 The Board looks forward to seeing a full library service recommencing for the prisoners once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

## **7.2 Vocational training, work**

- 7.2.1 At the end of the reporting period, of a total population of 1,158 prisoners, 273 had no assigned activity for any part of the day (23.6%). Excluding those noted as fully retired, the proportion of all-day unassigned prisoners was 14.6% which is a marginal improvement on the previous year (16.1%).
- 7.2.2 The Board notes that even during restricted and full lockdown pandemic phases essential activities continued e.g. recycling, industrial cleaning, kitchens, all gardens and wing cleaning/servery.
- 7.2.3 The Board recognises the fact that more than two thirds of the prisoner population have benefited from enhancing their employability skills or addressing wider pathway needs such as independent living both in prison and upon release. Prisoners have been able to achieve qualifications leading directly to positive outcomes. For example, the Board has been made aware of three appointments in the rail industry, one in the car industry and three in textiles.
- 7.2.4 The Board feels the planned development of a practical cleaning qualification for the c.100 wing cleaners is a positive step.
- 7.2.5 The Board is aware that for parts of the reporting period the workshops on Lakeside were not open due to repairs to the infrastructure and upgrades to the water and heating systems. As a result of this some workshops were deemed too cold to work in and therefore prisoners assigned to these workshops were unable to engage with their assigned activities.

- 7.2.6 Despite a reduction from the previous period, the Board is pleased that the prison continues to offer opportunities for prisoners to demonstrate their active citizenship or community spirit and responsibility. At the end of the reporting period, 16 were assigned roles as learning support assistants, 86 as orderlies helping in different prison departments and 49 as various representatives and coordinators. There were 151 assignments in total, of which 27 were full-time.
- 7.2.7 The Board is pleased to note that, in support of the Fine Cell Work charity, HMP Littlehey won the award for ‘outstanding contribution to Fine Cell work’ in the Fine Cell Work Prison Awards.<sup>3</sup> This is the second year in succession that the prison has won this award and this is a remarkable achievement of which the prisoners involved, and the prison, should be proud.
- 7.2.8 The Board congratulates the positive achievement of the gardens team who came fourth in the Windlesham Trophy, the national prison gardens competition.

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

- 7.3.1 The pandemic continued to impact significantly on the opportunities for progression for prisoners during this reporting year with changing prison regimes restricting the ability of prison offender managers (POMs) and programmes staff to meet face-to-face with prisoners. The Board recognises that all those involved in prisoner progression have made their best endeavours to provide their services. However, the consistency of communications with prisoners and the ability to proactively address prisoners’ offending behaviour has suffered from these restrictions on face-to-face activities.
- 7.3.2 The Board is pleased to report that the lack of clarity of line management responsibilities noted in last year’s report has been addressed and the appointment of a new governor for offender management in September 2020 has assisted in this area.
- 7.3.3 Progress on OASys reports has shown improvement from previous years, with more prisoners arriving at HMP Littlehey from other prisons with an OASys assessment. The prison has also provided greater focus on completing these assessments for those who arrive at HMP Littlehey following their initial sentencing. Despite this progress the backlog of OASys reports continues to be work-in-progress and the Board is pleased to understand that external resources have now been allocated to enable this work to be addressed with some priority during 2022.
- 7.3.4 The Board was pleased to see the relaunch of sequencing (through which relevant programmes are arranged in an order which best enables the prisoner’s rehabilitation) in November 2021. This, together with the activities

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<sup>3</sup> finecellwork.co.uk

hub taking responsibility for allocating prisoners to relevant activities, has resulted in a positive improvement in this aspect of prisoner progression.

- 7.3.5 The Board acknowledges the positive efforts made to continue with programmes and assessments within the confines of the prison regime changes during this reporting year. The pandemic restrictions have, once again, severely restricted the provision of programmes to enable prisoners to address their offending behaviour with very small numbers of prisoners being able to access these programmes. Only four Kaizen programmes ran from September 2021, involving seven prisoners of which four had completed by January 2022. Three Horizon programmes ran between May 2021 and January 2022 involving 17 prisoners. These numbers are approximately 30% of those who would have been expected to access such offending behaviour programmes pre-pandemic.
- 7.3.6 In addition, the ability to conduct reduced number group sessions and face-to-face meetings was affected by the restricted regimes. Programme needs assessments which required face-to-face meetings with qualified staff were also detrimentally affected during this year. This lack of intervention opportunities has led to the creation of a large waiting list for access to these programmes and has significantly affected the completion of sentence plans. The Board is concerned with how this waiting list is to be cleared so that prisoners who need to access such programmes will have the opportunity to do so in a timely manner.
- 7.3.7 During the year parole boards continued via video conferencing and, when the regime permitted, more complex cases were held face-to-face. It is expected that due to the efficiencies experienced by using video conferencing this will now continue as the preferred approach with face-to-face boards meeting by exception only.
- 7.3.8 The Board was pleased to see the improvement in recategorisation boards, with the introduction from September 2021 of face-to-face meetings between the POM and prisoners who are being considered for recategorisation to D. This has enabled greater transparency of the decisions and helped prisoners understand what is required of them to achieve D categorisation.

## **7.4 Family contact**

- 7.4.1 Visits were widely impacted throughout the year and the different restrictions and regimes presented challenges to the prison. The Board is pleased to see social video calls (delivered by Purple Visits) being supported by the prison and popular with the prisoners. There was a grand total of 3,745 social video calls during the year. The easing of restrictions in the later part of the year resulted in the reintroduction of face-to-face visits and a subsequent reduction in the number of social video calls. However, they remain popular and an effective way to facilitate regular contact with remote families, particularly for foreign nationals.

7.4.2 The Board welcomed the continuation of the HMPPS phone credit top-up of £5 per week in this reporting year, however the limited time out of cell made it difficult for prisoners to phone their families as often as they wished. This situation was not helped by some wing phones becoming out of order on a regular basis due to unexplained line faults. The Board acknowledge that senior managers were proactive in working with BT to rectify these faults.

## 7.5 Resettlement planning

7.5.1 Despite HMP Littlehey being a training rather than a resettlement prison, significant numbers were again released during the reporting period. There were 213 prisoners released in the 12 months up to 31 January 2021 compared with 291 the previous year (source: [HMPPS Performance Hub](#), 4 April 2022) The Board hopes that the downward trend continues as the reconfiguration project progresses.

7.5.2 Table 5a shows that 91 (42.7%) prisoners were released on a Friday (source: [HMPPS Performance Hub](#), 4 April 2022), which the Board considers challenging, given the rural location and the need to travel to planned accommodation. The figure is practically unchanged from the previous period (table 5b). Prisoners often relocate to remote or unfamiliar areas and may consequently struggle to make mandated appointment deadlines with their probation officers, for example.

7.5.3 There were 24 prisoners released to transient accommodation or without accommodation, down from 34 the previous year, but over 11% of total releases and an ongoing concern.

**Table 5a: Releases to premises type in the reporting year 2021 – 2022**

Accommodation on Release	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
CAS-1 (Tier 1): Approved Premises	19	9	15	18	32	93
<sup>1</sup> CAS-2 (Tier 2): <sup>2</sup> BASS Accommodation					1	1
<sup>3</sup> CAS-3 (Tier 3)	1		1		2	4
Awaiting Assessment				1		1
Friends / Family	6	2	3	7	19	37
Homeless / Transient Accommodation	3	2	4	3	12	24
Householder	2	1	2	1	6	12
Immigration Detention						
Long Term Residential Healthcare					1	1
Rental Accommodation	1	1	1	1	5	9
Supported Housing			1	1	4	6
Not Recorded / Unknown	7	5	2	2	9	25
Grand Total	39	20	29	34	91	213
Release % by Day	18.3%	9.4%	13.6%	16.0%	42.7%	

<sup>1</sup> CAS - 'Community Accommodation Services'

<sup>2</sup> BASS - 'Bail and Accommodation Support Services'

<sup>3</sup> CAS-3 relates to accommodation intended for qualifying adults leaving prison or CAS tiers 1 and 2 who would otherwise become homeless

**Table 5b: Releases to premises type in the reporting year 2020 - 2021**

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 / Unknown	3		3	6	3	15
Grand Total	57	40	43	58	93	291
Release % by Day	19.6%	13.7%	14.8%	19.9%	32.0%	

- 7.5.4 Tables 6a and 6b provide a comparison between 2021/2 and 2020/1 of those released immediately before or during public holiday periods, when public transport restrictions may offer additional challenges (source: [HMPPS Performance Hub](#), 4 April 2022) The Board is pleased to recognise the improvement.

**Table 6a: Public holiday releases in the reporting year 2021 - 2022**

Holiday Release	Release Day / Date	Accommodation at Release	Total
May Day	Friday, 30 April 2021	Friends / Family	1
Spring Bank Holiday	Friday, 28 May 2021	Approved Premises	1
Summer Bank Holiday	Friday, 27 August 2021	Approved Premises	1
Grand Total			3

**Table 6b: Public holiday releases in the reporting year 2020 - 2021**

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

- 7.5.5 During the reporting year the negative impact of the pandemic on the services provided by resettlement agencies such as CF03 to help prisoners prepare for their release and their post-prison lives continued to be significant. The Board acknowledges the efforts made by these agencies to maintain their services, but it must be recognised that the nature of the support given has suffered from the lack of face-to-face contact because of the requirement for the staff of these agencies to work remotely either fully or partially throughout 2021.
- 7.5.6 The Board is pleased to see the new links made by the prison's reducing reoffending function with New Futures Network and Arena Structures to help with finding employment for those nearing the end of their sentences. It is noted that some prisoners have already secured employment via these links and the Board looks forward to seeing more successes in the future.
- 7.5.7 In last year's report the Board expressed its disappointment that the excellent guide to resettlement initially produced during 2019 has not been maintained. The Board is however pleased to understand that much of the information provided in this guide is provided to prisoners via the probation discharge

pack which is tailored to the specific needs of the prisoner being discharged. As the Board understands that the resettlement guide is currently being revised, it hopes the revised version will complement the probation discharge packs so that together they provide information for the benefit of those restarting their lives after their prison experience.



## The work of the IMB

- 8.1.1 Not all members were able to visit the prison during parts of the year because of the pandemic. Some remote monitoring did occur during the year, such as dealing with applications using CJSM (the criminal justice secure email platform) and monitoring rule 45 reviews by phone. Visits to residential wings, especially induction and older persons' wings, were not possible for most of the period. Feedback about residential issues was therefore very limited.
- 8.1.2 Contact with the CSU and the communications team was maintained weekly by phone for the first few months of the period, and staff in both areas were exceptionally helpful. As pandemic conditions improved, the Board began to have more in-person contact with both areas. The management coordinator and the IMB clerk provided excellent and helpful support by regularly forwarding daily briefing sheets, notices to prisoners (NTPs), prisoners' newsletters and staff information newsletters.
- 8.1.3 The period began with eight Board members, one of whom sadly passed away during the year and another who resigned. A recruitment campaign in December 2020 resulted in the appointment of four new members in late April 2021. Unfortunately, in addition to those unable to visit the prison because of the pandemic, three others did not engage for much of the year, so the effective membership was therefore seven at the end of the period.
- 8.1.4 Another campaign was started in November 2021, but candidate interviews had not been scheduled by the end of January 2022. Previous campaigns suggest at least five months between the start of a campaign and new members being appointed, so Board activities will be impacted by low numbers well into the next period as new members are appointed and trained.
- 8.1.5 During the reporting year the Board held all 12 monthly meetings, five over Zoom and seven face-to-face in a suitable room in the prison.
- 8.1.6 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 during the year.

## Board statistics

Board Statistics	
Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10*
Total number of visits to the establishment	402
Total number of segregation reviews attended	87

\*In addition to those unable to visit the prison because of the pandemic, three others did not engage for several months. The effective number of Board members at the end of the period was therefore seven.

## Applications to the IMB

- 8.1.7 IMB applications rose from 199 to 281, many of which were dealt with remotely during the early part of the period. As some vaccinated members began to feel able, applications were increasingly answered by letter from the IMB office. The Board did not resume face-to-face prisoner applications.
- 8.1.8 Of the 22 confidential complaints to the IMB all but four were invalid and could have been answered by prison staff.
- 8.1.9 Property complaints to the IMB, especially regarding other prisons, remain a big issue which HMPPS still needs to adequately address.

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year 2021	Current reporting year 2022
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	21	35
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	8	6
C	Equality	10	10
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	7	15
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	10	18
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	5	5
F	Food and kitchens	0	0
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	13	20
H1	Property within this establishment	16	14
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	25	38
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	10	7
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	10	16
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	7	23
K	Transfers	7	7
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	21	45
	Confidential Access	22	22
	No Show	7	N/A
<b>Total number of applications:</b>		<b>199</b>	<b>281</b>



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