



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

**For reporting year  
1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022**

**Published February 2023**



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## Introductory sections 1 – 3

### 1. Statutory role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent Board, appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required to:

- satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range, and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison, and also to the prison's records.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen protection for people deprived of their liberty. The protocol recognises that such people are particularly vulnerable and aims to prevent their ill-treatment through establishing a system of visits or inspections to all places of detention. OPCAT requires that States designate a National Preventive Mechanism to carry out visits to places of detention, to monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees and to make recommendations for the prevention of ill-treatment. The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

## **2. Description of the establishment**

HMP Bure is a category C prison with a certified normal accommodation of 604 and an operational capacity of 624. At the time of writing, the occupancy is 619.

Located approximately seven miles northeast of Norwich, HMP Bure is a relatively new prison, having opened on 30 November 2009. It is a mix of new buildings and older ones converted from HQ buildings and airmen's accommodation blocks of the former RAF Coltishall.

The accommodation comprises seven residential accommodation units, mostly comprising single cells, although there are four cells in five units that are used as doubles and 19 cells on residential unit 7 that are equipped to be used for double occupancy in the event of national population pressures.

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, 19 temporary self-contained accommodation units were added. Rearrangement of residential unit 6 provided 20 spaces to enable new arrivals to be held in quarantine for 14 days – the reverse cohort unit (RCU) – and a further 20 for protective isolation. Prisoners who needed to shield were located on residential unit 7, unless they had requested to remain in their own cells in the other residential units.

Each cell on residential units 1 to 6 has integral sanitation, with the use of communal showers. There is one accessible cell in both residential units 5 and 6. All cells on residential unit 7 have integral sanitation and showers, and one is wheelchair accessible.

Other buildings on the site include the care and separation unit (CSU), healthcare department, three workshops, a learning resource centre, administration block and visitors' centre. A multi-use building houses the offender management unit (OMU), programme delivery services, the gym, the chaplaincy and the multi-faith room.

Service providers are:

Physical and mental healthcare – Practice Plus Group

Education and skills – PeoplePlus

Substance misuse treatment – Phoenix Futures

Family support services – Ormiston

Catering suppliers – Bidfood & Hovis

Maintenance – Gov Facilities Services Ltd

Escort contractor – Serco

### **3. Executive summary**

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

This report presents the findings of the Board for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022. Evidence comes from observations made on visits, scrutiny of records and data, informal contact with prisoners and staff, surveys and prisoner applications.

The period up to 9 May 2022 was out of the ordinary due to the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It disrupted every part of prison life for both prisoners and staff. The Board has worked closely with the staff and prisoners and has sometimes had to meet with prisoners in the open air due to outbreaks in various residential units. The Board communicates regularly with governors and staff and despite intermittent lockdowns, morale has remained reasonably high. There have been times of frustration due to the removal of restrictions in the community although the quick action by HMPPS kept Covid cases down to manageable levels.

#### **3.2 Main judgements**

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

The impact of Covid-19, with lockdowns of up to 23 hours a day, was difficult both for staff and prisoners. However, the recognition by both groups of the effect that the virus could potentially have on their families and friends led to greater understanding, and a reduction in complaints. Data showed 75% of prisoners said that Bure is safe and decent. This represents a drop, reflecting how prisoners feel about the risk of the Covid-19 pandemic. All prisoners and staff were offered both Covid and influenza vaccinations. Regular testing for Covid-19 was carried out.

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

Overall, prisoners continued to receive fair and humane treatment in the establishment. Meetings of the prisoners council continued and proved invaluable during stage 3 of Covid restrictions. The council met once a month and was attended by governors, including the governing Governor. Double occupancy cells remain and the IMB would like a commitment from HMPPS that these will be withdrawn.

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

The healthcare department was fully staffed, including the mental health team. The service they provided was equal to that expected in the local community. Some clinics had to be cancelled due to Covid, but the healthcare team had face-to-face meetings with residents using the appropriate PPE in urgent cases. The mental and physical health of everyone was a concern and ideas generated by both the prisoners council and staff helped to minimise harm.

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

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

Will the Minister ensure that HMP Bure operates at its nominal accommodation level? At present there are some double cells which are cramped and unsuitable for an establishment such as this – especially those on residential unit 7.

- The Board has remarked on previous occasions about the position of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) prisoners who are imprisoned far beyond their tariffs at HMP Bure. Currently there are 17 prisoners serving a sentence beyond their tariff, the longest being 13 years over tariff. The Board cannot help noting that these prisoners were convicted by a court either on their own admission of guilt or because their guilt was proved to a jury to the criminal standard of proof, i.e. beyond reasonable doubt, the burden of proof resting with the prosecution. After they have served their tariffs, they are still subject to a punitive regime until they can prove they are fit to be released. It seems unjust that they must prove a negative, which is impossible. In the interests of consistency, it appears to the Board that it should be up to the Prison and Probation Service to prove to the same standard on which the individual was first imprisoned that an individual should be kept in a punitive regime.
- The Board is aware that shortly after the reporting period the Justice Committee published a report on this issue. Will the Minister act swiftly on this report?

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

- We reported last year that the heating system on residential unit 7 was in need of replacement. Pre-pandemic a sum of money was allocated for the work but never included in the following year's budget. Could HMPPS explain why this work was never carried out and reallocate funding as a matter of urgency so that it can be completed? This is especially important due to the age of the prisoners in this residential unit.
- A number of solar panels were installed on the kitchen and residential unit 7 with a view to saving energy costs, but these have not worked since early 2022 due to technical problems. In the present climate of escalating energy costs it seems extraordinary that the issues have not been resolved. Could this now be given top priority so that the much-needed savings can be made?
- For a number of years the Board has been highlighting the need for in-cell telephony at HMP Bure to bring it into line with the majority of establishments nationally. The present system of telephones on landings makes it virtually impossible to hold a private conversation. In addition, calls can only be made during the daytime when often relatives are at work. To date no progress has been made. Will HMPPS make funding available within the next financial year to enable work to start?

- Will the Prison Service consider the introduction of national pay rates for prisoners across the whole of the estate? Pay rates differ between various establishments, even for similar jobs, but prisoners nationally have to pay the same amount for canteen and catalogue items. This does not seem reasonable or fair.

## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

The Board monitors safety at HMP Bure by attending safer custody meetings, adjudications, ACCT reviews and through its own observations. Members of the Board have visited over 150 times during the reporting year, which included the segregation unit at each visit. Also visited were other areas of the prison, of which there are over 25. Members walking around the prison take the opportunity to speak with any prisoner or member of staff they encounter. This enables members to have a good indication of the morale in the prison.

HMP Bure managed the relaxation from stages 3 to 1 very efficiently. Looking back over the whole of the Covid pandemic, the Board believes that HMP Bure dealt with the difficult and unique conditions very well. All members of staff are to be congratulated on their efforts.

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

Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, reception procedures were well organised and safe. These included testing prisoners for Covid-19 upon arrival and then five days afterwards. Since the prison moved to stage 1 regime in May 2022, normal reception procedures have restarted. Prisoners are treated with decency and regard for their safety and wellbeing. All new prisoners meet with a member of the induction team along with an induction orderly and a Listener to provide support and accompany them through the reception process. All new prisoners are housed on residential unit 6 during their early days.

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

During the reporting year, there were three deaths in custody. One death was apparently self-inflicted. There were 585 assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) reviews in the reporting year. There were 347 individual incidents of self-harm, involving 46 individuals. This represents a large increase from 226 incidents in last year's reporting period, which may be attributable to the continuing regime restrictions.

Some prisoners are trained by the Samaritans to offer a listening service for all prisoners. However, owing to release or transfer from the establishment and the Samaritans not being able to train replacements during the Covid-19 pandemic, numbers were seriously depleted. It is to the credit both of staff and prisoners that a full 24-hour listening service was and is still being provided. The safer custody team supported the group by listening to their concerns and arranging resilience and wellbeing training opportunities with a prison psychologist. In addition, Listeners were given opportunities to telephone the Samaritans, to ensure their own wellbeing while dealing with increasing number of prisoners who may have felt isolated and fearful for their friends and family.

Listeners were dedicated to their role and ensured that officers were made aware of those prisoners who are feeling isolated but not asking for support. Safer custody and chaplaincy staff also worked closely with families to try to support prisoners. At

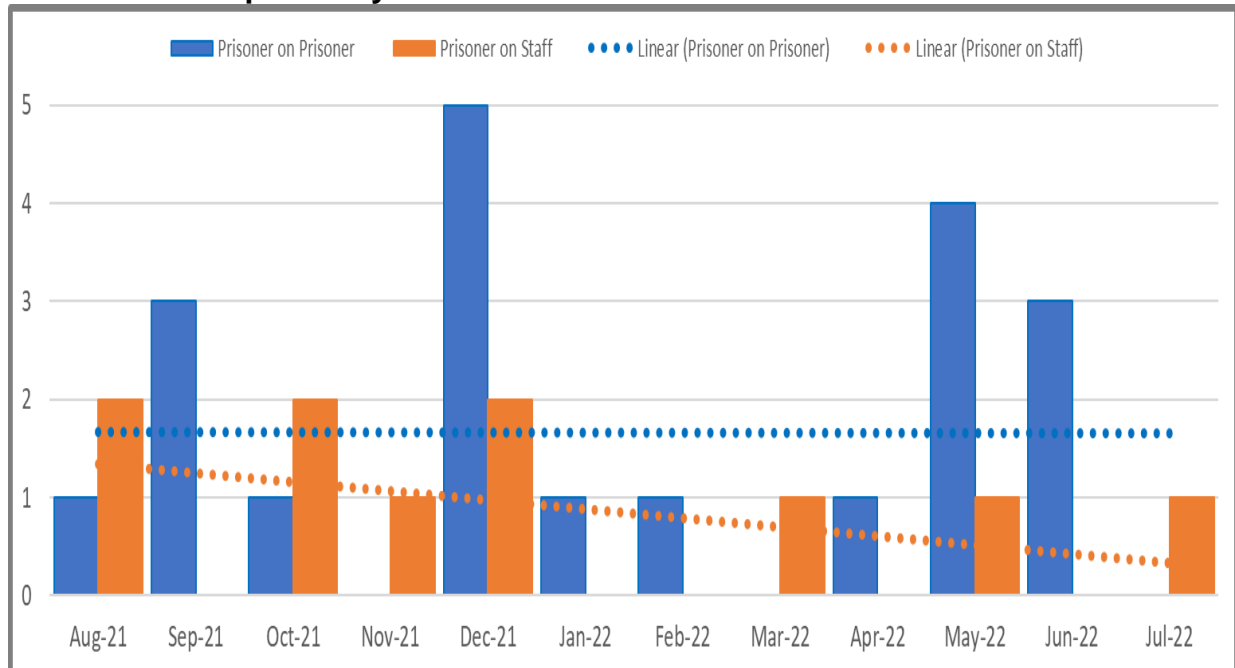


the time of writing, the Samaritans have returned to Bure and been able to give one-to-one support to Listeners, which is important for the wellbeing of the Listeners.

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

Levels of violence remained low. During the reporting year, there were 30 incidents – a reduction from 37 last year. This reflects the restricted regime during the continuing Covid outbreak. There were a total of 20 prisoner-on-prisoner assaults and 10 assaults on staff.

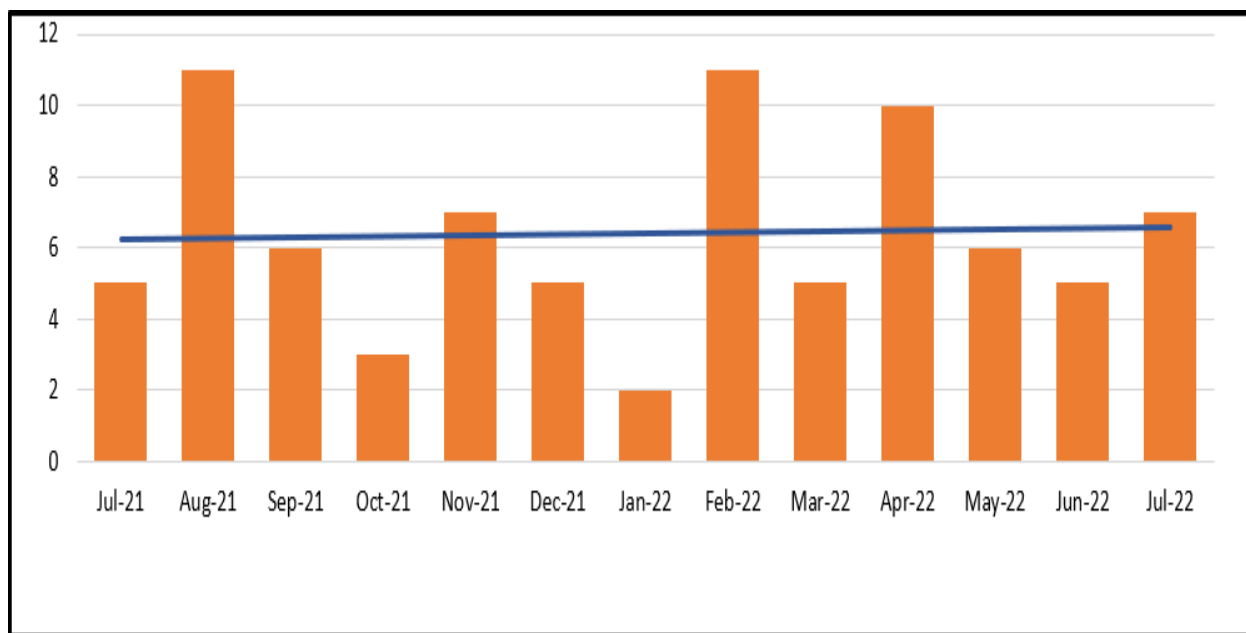
#### Assaults in the prison by month



#### 4.4 Use of force

The level of force used at HMP Bure was relatively low, with 83 recorded incidents over the reporting year. In eight of these, force was used to prevent self-harm. There were no severe injuries to any prisoners or officers. A baton was drawn once but not used. There were no incidents of PAVA spray being drawn or used.

##### Use of force incidents by month



The Board has observed and received training to ensure that members have a full understanding of the control and restraint methods necessary to reduce the risk of injury both to prisoners and staff.

#### 4.5 Preventing Illicit Items

Mandatory drug testing, security intelligence and substance misuse services indicated that there was low availability of illicit drugs. There were some incidents of misusing prescribed drugs but this has remained low since the advent of Covid-19, with prisoners being able to associate with only a small number of other prisoners to reduce the risk of infection. Healthcare and prison staff co-operated with the drug strategy recovery team by monitoring prescribed drugs held by prisoners in their cells. This reduced the risk of bullying or trading of drugs.

There were seven interceptions by the dog team of suspected illicit items entering the prison; five of these were found to be positive and at the time of writing two results were still awaited.

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

There were a total of 291 cases of Covid during the reporting period. Given the close proximity of the prison environment, the number of Covid cases in HMP Bure was kept within manageable levels. However, this came at a cost.

*'The mantra that a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of regime restrictions was for our own safety was quite frankly frustrating. Instead of closing classrooms and workshops much more should have been done to ensure that purposeful activity was being delivered in different ways.'*

*There is no excuse for a relatively modern establishment like HMP Bure not having in cell telephones or offering IT access outside of education.*

*It's been remarkable just how well the population has behaved. However, the damage the past 2 years has done to our mental and physical health has not yet, I fear, been fully assessed.'*

*(a prisoner's view)*

### **5.1 Food**

The kitchen manager and staff, along with prisoners, worked hard to provide three meals a day for 600+ prisoners, which is to be commended. Owing to the changes in the regime within the establishment, orderlies had reduced hours in the kitchen, and this had an impact on the staff.

### **5.2 Segregation**

The care and separation unit (CSU) has 10 cells and has in the past taken prisoners from HMP Norwich for short stays, to help with pressures experienced at that establishment. This stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic but is expected to restart in the coming weeks. The number of cells occupied in the CSU was generally low, with some of the occupants returning on a regular basis because of behavioural, personality and/or mental health disorders. Officers working in the CSU were professional and patient in their approach. No special accommodation was used in the reporting year and there were no dirty protests' The Board attends the CSU during every visit to the prison and members also participate in segregation reviews and adjudications and ACCT discussions, and to speak with prisoners.

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

Relationships between staff and prisoners were generally good. There was a low level of violence and there were a number of prisoners with responsibilities in each residential unit, ensuring that prisoners' views were heard. Each unit had a representative on the residents' council, education orderlies and trained Listeners. Prior to Covid-19, the key worker scheme was in place, and was beginning to show opportunities for prison officers to support prisoners. Unfortunately, as a result of having to limit each prison officer and prisoner's number of contacts for everyone's safety, and the reduced access to the residential units, it was difficult to maintain

contact with a key worker. This was addressed by officers on each residential wing having an individual responsibility for the wellbeing of a group of prisoners. The scheme resumed in May 2022.

Prisoners were allocated a personal officer working in the same residential accommodation unit, to liaise with them and document their records accordingly.

The Board spoke with staff on a regular basis and more recently had face-to-face contact with prisoners and members of the prisoners council.

The Board has observed the continuing changes toward a rehabilitative culture which empowers prisoners and has been invaluable, allowing staff and prisoners to work together.

#### **5.4 Equality and diversity**

At the time of writing, there are 65 foreign national prisoners at the prison, from 33 countries. There are seven prisoners identifying as transgender, and they are well supported by staff and other prisoners. The population of HMP Bure is 82% White and 18% Black, Asian and minority ethnic. Black History Month information is shared with all, along with thought-provoking artwork provided by prisoners, with the help of the education department.

The prison has a provision for transgender individuals, of whom there were seven as at July 2022.

Its population is relatively elderly, with 44% of prisoners being over 50 years of age and 14% being over 70. The oldest is aged 90. Prior to Covid-19, staff managed the needs of the elderly and/or vulnerable with the introduction of CAMEO (come and meet each other), which reduced isolation and helped prisoners' wellbeing.

The discrimination incident reporting form (DIRF) system works well, and all prisoners and staff are encouraged to use it. There were 79 DIRFs submitted during the reporting year, of which 47% were submitted by Black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners.

#### **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

The chaplaincy team is respected by all who live and work at Bure. An understanding of diversity and equality is encouraged by all chaplains, with music playing an important part, enabling all to experience and enjoy the similarities and differences between cultures.

Prior to the pandemic, the chaplaincy was able to provide services for all faiths and recognised festivals. During the pandemic, members of the chaplaincy dedicated themselves to supporting prisoners and staff by remaining in the establishment, helping to contact friends or family, and providing reading material, books and DVDs to help prisoners deal with the long hours of lockdown. Staff and prisoners alike lost friends and relatives during the pandemic but the chaplaincy supported everyone in their grief and arranged opportunities for prisoners to observe funerals via video

webcast. Services were suspended during the pandemic but restarted on 16 May 2022.

## **5.6 Incentives schemes**

There was an improvement in ensuring that reviews of prisoners' incentives levels were not delayed. At the end of the reporting period there were 432 prisoners on the enhanced level and 154 on the standard level of the incentives scheme.

## **5.7 Property**

The Board is pleased to report a significant drop in applications regarding property within the establishment. Reception staff have looked at ways to ensure that property and parcels can be collected during exercise. This system was working well prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, which added to the pressures for staff as a result of the significant volume of catalogue orders allowed to prisoners in order to support them during the long hours of lockdown. Items had to be held for a period of 72 hours to safeguard staff and prisoners from the virus. Some suppliers were not able to deliver items or collect returns, which added to delays. Business hub staff looked at alternative methods, which resolved some of the problems, but they had no control over the pressure put on outside suppliers by the general increase of online shopping in the community.

Property transfer between establishments has been a problem in the past but items are now forwarded quickly and not being retained or lost at the level of previous years. Delay in property arriving at Bure from other establishments has improved. This may be the result of fewer transfers taking place, as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare general**

The healthcare centre is open seven days a week from 08:00–19:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00–17:30 at the weekends. An out of hours service is not provided by Practice Plus Group and the prison uses the NHS 111 service. GP visits take place on three days a week with a nurse practitioner available five days a week and supported by healthcare staff.

Staffing has increased further since last year's report and includes a mental health prescriber to help monitor medications for those with mental health issues. Within Practice Plus Group a range of apprenticeships and extra training are offered to healthcare staff. Since our last report, full staffing levels have been achieved by Practice Plus Group, despite the isolation of the prison.

### **6.2 Physical healthcare**

A dentist attends two days a week along with a physiotherapist, podiatrist and optician. Healthcare staff have been trained to do minor repairs to hearing aids and spectacles. They are currently working on an initiative with the local hospital to develop remote video clinics but this is still in its infancy. Given the cost to the prison of hospital escorts, this is an urgent priority.

A respiratory nurse has been employed to help enhance care for those with long-term conditions, with further specialist nurses being sought.

A pharmacist (shared with another prison) is also available and supported by five pharmacy technicians.

Healthcare staff dealt with challenging situations in a professional manner and the safer custody team provided officer support to ensure the wellbeing of all healthcare staff.

The Covid vaccination programme was been very successful at HMP Bure, with the following vaccinations numbers for the current population: 90% have received the first dose; of these, 99% have received the second dose; of these, 92% have received a booster.

With only four accessible cells available at HMP Bure, some basic issues like easy access from cell door to bed are very difficult for any disabled prisoner in normal cells.

There were sometimes delays in prisoners getting to medication and medical appointments on time. The problem seems to be that wing roll checks are not always completed in time.

### **6.3 Mental healthcare**

The mental health team consisted of experienced full-time staff, with a mental health nurse prescriber leading the team. As part of staff development their current support worker is hoping to start her trainee nurse apprenticeship studies in September 2022.

As the prison moved to a less restricted regime, the mental health team was able to speak to prisoners in the open air if necessary, and as restrictions eased further the team was able to speak to prisoners inside for much of the reporting year.

### **6.4 Social care**

Practice Plus Group employs an occupational therapist at HMP Bure to support the needs of the most vulnerable. Norfolk County Council (NCC) assesses and provides aids and support for those with disabilities. Prisoners are trained as buddies to support the needs of those with mobility problems and healthcare staff provide personal care. The establishment is not able to offer palliative and end of life care. Prisoners requiring this are sent to HMP Norwich, local hospices or the local Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital. With an aging population, HMP Bure would benefit from such a facility. The Board has found that prisoners who have served long sentences would rather stay in the establishment during their final days.

### **6.5 Exercise, regime**

Prior to the pandemic, staff provided many opportunities, both for prisoners and staff, to improve their health and wellbeing. Gym staff took on other duties during the initial lockdown period, which was gradually extended, because of requirements for staff and officers to enable the physical distancing of prisoners.

Prisoners spoke of their appreciation of the efforts made by gym staff to offer a range of activities in the open air, in all weathers, which helped them deal with the long hours of lockdown. Circuit training and bowls were organised. It was interesting to hear how much the younger prisoners enjoyed the opportunity to try playing bowls with the older prisoners. Outdoor gym equipment was installed opposite residential unit 7 which was used and appreciated by prisoners. Since May 2022 the gym has been back to full operational use.

### **6.6 Drug rehabilitation**

Thirteen percent of the population of Bure were monitored for drug-related issues. Members of the drug strategy recovery team continued their work throughout. No programmes have been run since the start of the pandemic, but staff maintained one-to-one contact with prisoners and carried out regular welfare checks with more vulnerable prisoners. Once again, full service was resumed in May 2022.

### **6.7 Soft skills**

A range of charities has benefited from sponsored activities by prisoners and staff alike. Including the Macmillan Nurses, East of England Air Ambulance and Spurgeons. Unfortunately, the pandemic restricted all further contact with local community groups during the year.

Therapy dogs with their handlers visited the establishment on a regular basis to help calm those feeling isolated and/or with mental health problems, although, understandably, this has now stopped owing to Covid-19. This is now being reviewed and hopefully to restart in early 2023.



## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, vocational skills library**

Education has embedded the new functional skills standards in mathematics and English into the curriculum. The education department recommenced the delivery of Level 2 Food Hygiene on 22 July 2022. Numbers were lacking in some classes throughout the year.

The overall achievements for the period April 2021 to February 2022 were:

Functional skills at 74% from 112 attendees  
Vocational skills at 83% from 123 attendees  
Personal and social development at 77% from 41 attendees  
Creative skills at 88% from 44 attendees  
Taster packs at 94% from 33 attendees  
Way2Learn (in-cell learning) at 78% from seven attendees

The numbers were very much reduced from normal attendees but this reflected the restricted regime.

#### **5 July – 29 October 2021: stage 2**

- Prisoners split into two bubbles and worked either am or pm to allow work/activity to as many as possible.
- Prisoners only attended one type of activity to maximise the regime offer.

#### **Education:**

- Face-to-face socially distanced delivery of all functional skills, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), music tech, art, practical cleaning skills, warehousing principles, cycle mechanics, independent living, and Open University (OU) distance learning courses in a split regime model.
- Delivery of Way2Learn, Gateway personal and social development (PSD) units and taster in-cell learning packs.
- Some lessons had a blended approach of face-to-face and in-cell work.

#### **1 November – 17 December 2021: stage 1**

- Free-flow movement of prisoners.
- Increase of full-time work and activity spaces and for prisoners.

#### **Education:**

- Face-to-face standard delivery of all functional skills, ESOL, music tech, art, PCS, warehousing principles, cycle mechanics, independent living, and OU distance learning courses drawn from across the whole prison.
- Delivery of Way2Learn, Gateway PSD units and taster in-cell learning packs.

#### **20 – 21 December 2021: stage 2**

- Reduced numbers in each activity area to enable social distancing.

**Education:**

- Face-to-face socially distanced delivery of all functional skills, ESOL, music tech, art, PCS, warehousing principles, cycle mechanics, independent living and OU distance learning courses in a split-regime model.
- Delivery of Way2Learn, Gateway PSD units and taster in-cell learning packs.

**22 December 2021 – 31 March 2022: stage 3**

- No mixing of prisoners from different wings apart from essential workplaces such as the kitchen, workshops 1 and 2, CES and WMU.
- Prisoners scheduled for only one activity, with education taking priority.
- Education remained open but prisoners from only one wing could attend at a time. Lessons consisted of a mix of classroom activity and structured in-cell work.

**Education:**

- Each wing had one face-to-face socially distanced session each week across all functional skills, ESOL, music tech, art, PCS, warehousing principles, cycle mechanics, independent living and OU distance learning courses.
- Delivery of Way2Learn, Gateway PSD units and taster in-cell learning packs
- A new electrical installations workshop opened at the beginning of February.

From 9 May 2022 the prison moved from stage 3 to progressive regime, although wing lockdowns prevented learners from attending education at some points in the year.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) was responsible for the library, which was housed in a full and cramped room. It was essential to prisoners but had limited access to computers.

Owing to Covid-19, NCC closed the library, but prisoners collected and shared books with each other. Residential unit 3, the 'enabling wing', had already set up its own library, which has been invaluable during the pandemic. The library has now moved to new and much bigger accommodation which will be of benefit to all prisoners. From August 2022 the service will transfer to Suffolk County Council.

## **7.2 Work**

Workshops continued throughout the pandemic but the number of prisoners accessing purposeful activity dropped owing to civilian staff not being allowed into the prison and social distancing in the various workshops.

Workshop 1 is in need of more space to increase production, but an extension to the existing building would be required. The Board feels that although this would be welcomed, the capital expenditure at this time is unrealistic.

Workshop 3 in the visitors hall has full employment and works very well.

Workshop 2 has been restricted to 17 workers at any one time. The conditions are already cramped with no windows or ventilation systems. If workshops 2 and 1 were combined, with the office in the middle for all round observation, it is felt that this would be a big improvement.

Despite the reduction in the number of prisoners able to work in the workshops due to social distancing, the prison was still able to fulfil the contract for the production of filing cabinets, catering equipment and other items.

The gardens are the pride of Bure but they have been difficult to maintain due to the pandemic, and the notably dry summer experienced in Norfolk.

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

Prisoners continued to be able to access parole hearings. The backlog was reduced, and prisoners were recommended for release during the restricted regime.

The Board understands that there has been an increase in the demands for psychology reports, particularly in the east of England, leading to the service having to prioritise the most urgent work. More complex reports require face to face interviews which proved difficult to arrange with the Covid-19 restrictions in place. There is a shortage of a range of psychologists nationally, a situation not likely to be resolved in the near future.

The offending behaviour programme delivery suffers from delays, leading to a lack of progression through programmes and resulting in frustrations which have an impact on the wellbeing of prisoners and staff alike.

### **7.4 Family contact**

The family centre is managed by Spurgeons, which, in the first half of the reporting year, was involved in improving all aspects of visits, and engaging prisoners in parenting classes.

Whilst a restricted regime remained, social video calls to family members were retained. This reduced the possibility of a Covid outbreak brought in by visiting families. Contact with families via social video calls is arranged by Spurgeons, but prisoners are limited to 30-minute sessions only.

Since the end of social distancing, the visitor centre and room allow families to have a two-hour face-to-face visit on weekend days.

### **7.5 Resettlement planning**

For the first half of the year Covid restrictions seriously limited resettlement support. There was limited face-to-face support for prisoners. Despite this, there has been a strong commitment to resettlement by the head of offender management and offender management unit (OMU) staff working within the establishment.

Although HMP Bure is not funded for resettlement, it continues to regularly release men into the community due to a lack of suitable places in resettlement prisons. Despite its commitment the OMU is not always able to deliver the full resettlement package owing to the lack of funding, and there is a limited resettlement pathway to support men convicted of sexual offences.

## The work of the IMB

This year has been a challenging year for the Board at HMP Bure. The Covid-19 pandemic still had an impact but we were able to enter the establishment while safeguarding ourselves, prisoners, officers and other staff. Relaxation of the regime has enabled us to return to full monitoring as of May 2022.

A total of 86 applications were received by the Board in the reporting year, which is a slight reduction from the 94 from the previous report. There were increases in a few areas: accommodation, adjudications, purposeful activity, staff/prisoner concerns and transfers. There were concerns about the heating on residential unit 7 but the prison made small heaters available which resolved the majority of complaints.

Since March, there has been a significant drop in applications, but those we received related to the frustrations that prisoners felt during longer hours of lockdown, and being unable to attend education, the library and their usual places of work because of social distancing. The Board was able to reply quickly to applications but was not always able to resolve problems created by the pandemic.

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	<b>12</b>
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	<b>5</b>
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	<b>5</b>
Total number of visits to the establishment	<b>150</b>
Total number of segregation reviews attended	<b>25</b>

## Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	5	12
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	3	7
C	Equality	8	0
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	4	5
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	19	9
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	6	4
F	Food and kitchens	3	3
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	9	8
H1	Property within this establishment	16	12
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	5	5
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	0	0
I	Sentence management, including home detention curfew, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	8	8
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	5	6
K	Transfers	3	7
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	0	0
	Total number of applications	94	86



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