



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Haverigg

**For reporting year
1 December 2021–30 November 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

Haverigg is a category D open prison in West Cumbria and is a national resource used mainly, but not exclusively, for prisoners convicted of a sexual offence (PCoSO).

The prison is on an old military site dating back to World War II and has 80 mainly old buildings, including five residential units of varying size within the 4.5-mile perimeter. The site is large and exposed, especially to strong sea winds. Some distance from mainline rail services and major road networks, with the M6 motorway almost 50 miles away, the location of Haverigg has an impact on the maintenance of family ties and on recruitment to specialist posts in the prison and to the IMB.

The operational capacity of the prison is 488. The roll at the time of writing is 326, with the speed of transfer having been slowed for the first half of the year because of staff shortages in probation and offender management roles. The success of recent recruitment campaigns has enabled key vacancies to be filled and an increase in the rate of transfer to Haverigg is planned.

Environmental and structural improvements were made during the year including the start of a window replacement programme, upgraded external lighting and initial planning for an independent living centre.



Map showing the position of
Haverigg
within Cumbria



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The following agencies provide services to the prison:

- Spectrum Community Health CIC – primary healthcare (i)
- Spectrum Community Health CIC – GP services
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust – mental health
- Burgess and Hyder – dental services
- Spectrum Community Health CIC and Humankind – substance misuse service
- Cumbria County Council – adult social care
- Pen Optical – optician services
- Rowlands Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy – commissioned by Spectrum Community Health CIC
- Novus, the Manchester College – education and training
- Booker/DHL – prisoners' canteen
- GEO Amey – prisoner transport
- Cumbria County Council Library Service
- The Samaritans – prisoners' Listener training and phoneline support
- Interventions Alliance, DWP, Recoop and Careers Connect – financial advice, accommodation, employment guidance
- Amey – facilities management
- Partners of Prisoners Service (POPS) – visitor centre
- Cancer Research UK – charity shop
- Fusion21 – vocational course provider

- (i) Spectrum Community Health CIC (Community Interest Company) was commissioned by NHS England to provide an integrated primary care and substance misuse service following a retendering process. The new service provider commenced in April 2022 (see section 6).

Executive summary

3.1 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

The Board is of the view that the Governor and his management team continue to give safety the priority it deserves, as evidenced through direct observation, discussions with prisoners and attendances at meetings. Very low levels of self-harm and violence ensured that the prison is a settled environment for prisoners.

The Board's view is that the prison is a safe environment.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

An analysis of statistics on access to release on temporary licence (ROTL) and a review of equality and diversity performance reports enabled the Board to conclude that prisoners are treated fairly. Observation of immediate suitability reviews (ISRs), ROTL boards and case conferences support the Board's view that decision making processes are fair, proportionate and constructive.

The Board is aware there remains a perception amongst some prisoners that there is differential treatment between groups, for example those serving determinate or indeterminate sentences. However, the Board has seen no evidence of this.

The view of the Board is that the continued imprisonment of those serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) is neither fair nor humane. The delayed response from the government to recommendations made in September 2022 by the House of Commons Justice Committee has added further stress to this cohort of prisoners. With more than 30% of the population at Haverigg serving an IPP sentence, the prison is alert to their need for additional support.

Noting observations concerning IPP prisoners, the Board's view is that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely at Haverigg.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

Long term sickness and difficult to fill vacancies provided challenges to the primary care and mental health teams in providing care for an increasing number of prisoners with complex physical and psychological needs. However, the service remained highly regarded by prisoners and favourable comments were often made to the Board.

Training delivered by the mental health team in dementia awareness, mental health and neurodiversity enabled nonclinical staff to develop an increased understanding of the behaviour and specific needs of prisoners' chronic ill health, behavioural or memory related issues.

The reduction in the number of general practitioner (GP) sessions a week and, at the time of writing, the reliance on locums to fill the vacant post is of concern to the Board. Although there is no evidence that prisoners' healthcare needs are not being met, the view of the Board is that the service is under considerable pressure, exacerbated by developments arising from the new healthcare contract.

A wide range of social activities were available throughout the year, with therapeutic art and gardening well supported. The importance placed on physical and mental health and wellbeing was evident to members of the Board who observed many of the health promotion sessions and social activities during the year.

It is evident to the Board that prisoners' health and wellbeing needs are currently being met.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

There is evidence from a variety of sources to suggest that education, employment, progression and resettlement services are given a high priority. Feedback from prisoners is generally positive and the Board is satisfied they are given every opportunity to progress during their time at Haverigg.

The prison manages a large cohort of prisoners convicted of a sexual offence. This presents challenges in terms of risk assessment and management, ROTL access, sentence planning and progression, and ultimately arrangements for settled accommodation and employment on release.

The offender management unit (OMU) has been strengthened throughout the year and is now well placed to support the Governor's drive to increase the prison population at Haverigg. Support is also provided by a reducing reoffending team, who appear willing to continuously improve performance in a number of areas.

The Board is satisfied that every effort is made to give prisoners the support, skills and experience to progress towards successful resettlement.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

A consequence of recent changes in arrangements for the progression of category D offenders has been a reduced flow of prisoners from the closed to the open estate. It is of concern to the Board that an opportunity to ease pressure on accommodation in category C establishments via the transfer of prisoners to category D prisons, such as Haverigg where spaces are available, is not being most effectively managed.

In the view of the Board, reduction in reoffending is largely dependent upon specialist support, progression, purposeful activity and release planning, all of which are the prime focus of Category D prisons.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

Thematic reviews carried out by members of the IMB open estate chairs' group revealed differences between some prisons in a number of areas. The Board is concerned that apparent inconsistencies in these areas may cause confusion and, potentially, frustration when prisoners transfer between establishments:

- application of the victim support levy
- the number of prisoners being returned to closed establishments
- the number and frequency of discharges to no fixed abode
- permissible items of property

With over 30% of prisoners at Haverigg serving an IPP sentence, it would be helpful to learn what additional support the Prison Service can provide to this vulnerable group.

TO THE GOVERNOR

The Governor and his staff are commended for the increase in joint working between departments, which is a key factor in ensuring prisoners' sentences are managed to best effect. Notable are service improvements within the OMU, which suffered from probation and other staffing shortages throughout the year, and changes in key personnel. The impact on prisoners was often seen through an absence of, or delays in, communication and other updates, often featuring in IMB applications, with those relating to sentence management growing over the last two years.

It is the view of the Board that a sustained focus on providing prisoners with regular and proactive updates, explanations and timely responses will go a long way towards resolving the many frustrations that arise.

3.3 Progress since the last report

Environmental improvements continue and have been ongoing since the prison was re-categorised. Prisoners have freedom of access to most areas, presenting a settled and calm environment. As listed in the annex on page 24 there is a wide variety of developments and upgrades underway. The Board is regularly updated on these areas by the Governor and in the case of the independent living centre has been consulted at an early stage of design.

The Board is of the view that the most significant development in terms of impact on prisoners has been improvements in offender management and the OMU. Increased staffing and improved working arrangements should result in better communication and feedback to prisoners. Indications are that this has started and, given the number of applications received about this area over the last couple of years, the Board will continue to show a close interest.

Issues raised with the Governor by Board members are invariably acted upon quickly or, where appropriate, explanations are given that allow follow-up actions to take place.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

The safety and adult social care department coordinates a review meeting to which Board members are invited along with the deputy governor, department heads and representatives, and importantly a Listener coordinator. Tactical oversight is provided by a weekly safety intervention meeting (SIM), which brings together the safety, security, healthcare, chaplaincy and OMU functions to review cases and decide on actions associated with assessment, care in custody and teamwork plans (ACCTs), challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs) and prisoners otherwise giving rise to concern, as well as ROTL suspensions and arrangements for high profile prisoners.

The head of safety and adult social care has recently issued a safety survey to prisoners, seeking feedback on a range of related areas. The Board also issued discharge surveys to prison leavers in June and November 2022, including questions associated with feelings of safety.

During routine monitoring activities, IMB members remain alert to safety issues. In response to a small number of prisoner concerns associated with supervision, health, safety and welfare provision in identified industrial areas, Board members have been carrying out targeted monitoring across all such areas to help validate concerns and if necessary, to bring matters to the attention of prison service managers. No significant concerns have so far been identified.

Feedback from all sources, validated by IMB monitoring, indicates that prisoners feel safe at Haverigg.

4.1 Reception and induction

A pre-arrival letter and welcome booklet for prisoners transferring to Haverigg is routinely forwarded to the sending establishment in advance, so prisoners know what to expect on arrival. This has been enhanced by visits to various sending establishments from Haverigg staff to help promote the prison.

Aside from continuing, but reducing, concerns over prisoners' property during transfer, reception processes appear to run smoothly and generate few complaints. The Board continues to note the sensitive and supportive peer-led reception, first night and induction processes, and the associated information and induction booklets.

During the reporting year, 238 prisoners were transferred in to Haverigg and 168 were discharged. The trend was relatively consistent throughout the year, showing a 40% increase in receptions compared to discharges. There remains unused capacity at Haverigg for more category D prisoners.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

Nine incidents of self-harm were recorded and analysis throughout 2022 indicates that over 80% of the prisoners at Haverigg have never self-harmed. First night

interviews ask questions to identify areas of risk, with significant dates or other triggers highlighted in weekly SIM meetings and brought to the attention of officers and staff. Board members are regular attendees at SIM meetings, and can confirm the attention given to this area. Suicide and self-harm training is offered to all staff.

Thirty-nine ACCTs were opened during the year, the majority of which were because of low mood. It was identified by the head of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) that all ACCTs opened for the previous year (2021) were for White British (W1) prisoners, a fact he considered 'concerning' and perhaps suggesting that people from minority ethnic groups may not feel comfortable approaching staff. ACCT analysis throughout 2022 shows a continuation of this finding. Responding to IMB questions on the matter, the head of EDI stated that ACCT figures are in line with the national picture across the category D prison estate and he no longer considers this an area of concern, believing that prisoners from minority ethnic groups are more likely to seek out discrete peer support rather than to formally approach staff. The Board intends to follow this up and seek prisoners' views in the coming year.

The prison has an active network of Listeners, supported by a local Samaritans support team, who are available to advise and offer support to prisoners. This includes being available when prisoners first arrive at Haverigg as well as helping deal with reported release anxiety following what can sometimes be many years' imprisonment.

There were no deaths in custody during the year.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Levels of violence were very low throughout the year with just three assaults recorded, all of which were between prisoners and not involving officers or staff. CSIPs were opened for a total of six prisoners, and at any one time the number of prisoners subject to a CSIP remained in low single figures. Through attendance at SIM meetings and in dialogue with prisoners themselves, Board members are reassured that violent incidents are extremely rare and early interventions are used effectively.

A review of IMB applications that might imply an association with violence, discipline, bullying, etc. (Codes B and J – see page 23) failed to identify any matters of concern that are not otherwise referenced within this report.

4.4 Use of force

There were no recorded use of force incidents and no related matters of concern were brought to members' attention.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

There continues to be little evidence of alcohol and drugs use at Haverigg. Ten per cent of the prisoner population is randomly drug tested every month as well as targeted suspicion and risk testing. Since April 2022 there have been only two

positive tests returned, placing the prison at the top of its performance comparator group.

Any finds of unauthorised mobile phones and/or SIM cards, albeit small in number, have been promptly dealt with and those prisoners known to be responsible have been returned to closed conditions. Intelligence relating to illicit items has occasionally been passed to staff by prisoners themselves, who perhaps want to maintain a settled atmosphere at Haverigg.

The security governor and his staff have ready access to area search teams and dog support, both of which are used on a random but targeted basis.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

The importance placed on cleanliness and physical decency was evident to the Board during rota visits. An inter unit competition, well supported by prisoners, resulted in improvements in the overall environment and cleanliness of the accommodation units.

Refurbishment of accommodation, which began when the prison was re-categorised in December 2019, intensified during the year with an extensive programme of upgrades, developments and planning for new buildings (see annex p24).

The focus on preparation for release is evident in the planned introduction of self-cooking facilities on each unit, the development of a 10-place independent living centre in the former segregation block and a new build central laundry with a laundrette for use by prisoners.

Although the price of all food products rose during the second half of the year, in some cases by 50–60%, the Board commends the catering manager for maintaining portion sizes. Produce from the prison farm provided for all the catering department's vegetables throughout the year and, recently, for home-reared lamb meat. Although the daily food allowance of £2.32 is expected to increase in line with inflation, it remains a challenge to provide for health, religious and lifestyle diets within that budget.

In addition to surveys carried out in July and October, comment slips in each dining hall provided regular feedback about menu choices, food quality and service delivery. A change from a pre-select menu to a café style service delivery model proved to be unpopular with prisoners. Of the 40% of prisoners responding to the food service delivery report, 79% were able to have their preferred meal option for four days or less. Of particular concern were the 80% who had missed a meal because of the lack of options. The Board received comments from prisoners about a lack of choice for halal and vegan diets, however the main issue arising from responses to surveys, feedback forms and complaints was a request to return to the pre-select menu choice. The Board further commends the responsiveness of the catering manager in re-introducing pre-select menus in the New Year.

Thirty-two prisoners work in the kitchen, the majority of whom are working towards catering and hospitality qualifications.

5.2 Holding cells

The two holding cells on R1, occupied by some prisoners while their suitability for remaining at Haverigg is reviewed, were used on 53 occasions during the reporting year.

Eighty-eight ISRs were held with 68 prisoners (77%) subsequently returned to closed conditions. Board members were routinely notified of ISRs in advance and invited to attend and listen to the evidence presented by a range of professional disciplines. The Board is of the view that prisoners are given every opportunity to succeed in open conditions. Aside from those returned to Category C prisons as a result of intelligence received or discipline, a small number of prisoners also requested, and were supported, to transfer for other reasons.

5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships

The Board has observed positive interactions between prisoners and both officers and civilian staff. The workforce in the prison's industries were well supported by instructors and creativity was encouraged as evidenced by a wide range of Christmas items made by the prisoners employed on the farm and wooden and tiled remembrance panels created in workshops.

5.4 Equality and diversity

The prison's approach to equality and diversity (EDI) continued to grow in strength and depth. It was evident to the Board that EDI was high on the agenda of the senior management team, with each member being assigned as lead for a protected characteristic.

Investigation of a small number of comments to the Board about differing treatment of determinate and indeterminate sentenced prisoners in connection with access to ROTL found no evidence of discrimination. No applications concerning EDI were made to the Board.

The number of prisoner representatives increased during the year as did their level of involvement in organising events for key dates such as Black Awareness Month, LGBT and Pride Month for example, and in carrying out drop-in, peer support and advice sessions. Monthly reports provided to the prison council have included an in-depth focus on a protective characteristic.

Evidence from monitoring indicates that:

- 58% of prisoners are aged over 46
- 11% of prisoners are from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Minority ethnic prisoners are more likely to have positive entries on the National Offender Management Information System than their white British peers
- ROTL application waiting times are the same and proportionate across all ethnic groups

The conclusion by the Board that EDI continues to be effectively managed by the prison was evidenced by an analysis of:

- complaints
- ISRs and outcome decisions
- ROTL clearances and suspensions

- access to activities
- reasonable adjustments

Dementia awareness courses and training in neurodiversity increased staff understanding of difficulties faced by prisoners with such conditions.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

Enabling prisoners to practise their faith with 21 different religions, proved a challenge, particularly during the second half of the year when there were both vacancies and ill health within the chaplaincy team. However, when there was no chaplain available, arrangements were made, often for individuals or small groups, to worship and study.

Developments since last year involved joint working with a hospital chaplaincy, visiting approved premises to offer pastoral and religious support, and liaison with charities and churches to arrange resettlement support for prisoners prior to release.

5.6 Incentives schemes

Over 99% of prisoners are on the enhanced regime with rarely more than two on standard at any one time. Where required, CSIP interventions support prisoners in managing or modifying their behaviour.

Partnership working between education, industries and gym teams resulted in the introduction of an incentive scheme for prisoners successfully progressing from level 1 Maths and English to level 2 with additional gym sessions proving popular.

5.7 Complaints

The prison received 633 complaints during the IMB's reporting year with almost 80% answered within the required timescale. Responses to complaints about the loss of property on transfer (11%) were frequently delayed as replies from sending prisons were slow to arrive.

5.8 Property

Implementation of the long-awaited prison property framework was welcomed by the Board, especially a recognition of the importance of personal items of sentimental value to prisoners and an acknowledgement of the distress their loss causes. It is however disappointing that property still goes missing, particularly on transfer between prisons.

As a national resource, Haverigg receives prisoners from across England and Wales. Those transferring from distant prisons routinely have to stay overnight at other establishments before continuing the journey to Cumbria. The Board received 11 applications about missing property, nine of which occurred during transfer to Haverigg. The Board has yet to find evidence that the framework has led to a reduction in such losses.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Midway through the reporting year, the healthcare contract was retendered by NHS England. A combined primary care service was commissioned with Spectrum Community Health CIC as the new provider from April 2022. Throughout the commissioning process, the Board heard directly from prisoners of their concerns about the continuity of their care and the fate of healthcare staff. The Board was pleased to note that staff were retained, and the high standard of healthcare provision initially continued as before.

It is however of concern that from August 2022 the number of GP sessions reduced from 4.5 to 2.5 per week. Inconsistent locum cover from October 2022 after the regular GP left placed additional pressure on a healthcare team that is already stretched by vacancies.

There were few cases of Covid during the year and a high uptake of the autumn booster and flu vaccination.

The prison's contract and performance monitoring systems were observed by a member of the Board's occasional attendance at the local delivery board meeting. Issues, concerns and service delivery challenges facing the health and social care provision in the prison were considered in a constructive forum. However, there remains the need, highlighted last year, for greater clarity about arrangements for continuity of health and social care for prisoners released to a local authority area outside Cumbria.

6.2 Physical healthcare

The healthcare team came under increasing pressure in the autumn with a high level of ill-health absence. This led to the advanced nurse practitioner being required to act as interim head of healthcare while retaining a complex clinical workload.

The number of prisoners with long-term physical and mental health conditions increased during the year with many requiring multiple medications. The need for accompanied hospital appointments placed further pressure on the healthcare team in arranging dates and times for prisoners to attend. The number of older prisoners with dementia and suspected memory related issues continued to rise and the Board commends both healthcare and the prison service for the high level of care and attention given to this vulnerable group.

Despite the increased pressures, primary healthcare services continued to be highly regarded by prisoners with positive comments regularly made to the Board. Waiting times for dentistry and physiotherapy mirrored those in the community.

In acknowledgement of the high level of chronic diseases, particularly in the elderly population, NHS England commissioned a health needs assessment with data collection and qualitative evidence gathered in October and November 2022. The outcome is expected early in 2023.

6.3 Mental healthcare

Although caseloads managed by the mental health team only increased moderately, the needs of prisoners with cognitive issues became more complex and required additional support. The development and implementation of a dementia care pathway, inclusive of hospital memory clinic appointments and social care provision, enabled a multi-disciplinary and partnership approach in meeting the needs of older prisoners.

The Board commends the team for their development and dissemination of three bespoke training packages in dementia, neurodiversity and mental health to both uniformed and civilian staff.

Although staff vacancies proved hard to fill, both caseloads and waiting times were considered to be manageable and remained comparable to those in the community.

Plans for extended hours in the evening and drop in sessions had to be placed on hold but the team nonetheless carried out a sleep workshop, made initial progress towards becoming a dementia friendly prison and made plans to offer a pre-release anxiety management workshop early in 2023.

6.4 Social care

The social care needs of both an ageing population and those serving long sentences grew throughout the year. Prisoners with complex health conditions often had compromised mobility and limitations in their ability to manage activities of daily living.

The demands on Cumbria County Council's adult social care (ASC) team for occupational therapy assessments outstripped available resources, however the Board observed the efforts of the team to provide a service to the prison. Prisoners below the threshold for ASC support were required to purchase their own aids to daily living. Concerns were raised about this via two of the nine health-related applications to the IMB.

The prisoner resident support role introduced last year proved invaluable with the team providing daily assistance to those with physical and mental ill health, dementia and mobility problems.

6.5 Exercise

In addition to formal gym-based sessions, prisoners had unlimited time out of accommodation units with access to gardens and wildlife areas in which to exercise. In partnership with healthcare staff, the gym team held a health and wellbeing day which was attended by 170 prisoners. A similar event was held for staff.

The Village Hall, a daytime venue for prisoners of retirement age, continued to be the focus for socialisation, health promotion and exercise. The Hall was increasingly used in the evenings for social activities including concerts, music, meetings, and rehearsals.

6.6 Substance misuse

Approximately 5% of prisoners required specialist support from the Humankind substance misuse team. The Board commends the team for their work in supporting resettlement and enabling continuity of care on discharge for those needing ongoing support.

6.7 Soft skills

The range of social and health promotion activities expanded during the year with therapeutic art and gardening, quizzes, curling, and musical performances observed by members of the Board. A 'knit and natter' group and a community choir, both led by the chaplaincy team, began during the year with participation continuing to increase.

The Hive, a multi-use building that is centrally located and contains a barbers, tailor, café and farm shop, opened fully mid-way through the year. Advice and support services are well established in the Hive, many of which are peer led by orderlies.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

There is a strong focus on education, vocational training and employment, which begins when prisoners first arrive at the prison with one-to-one interviews aimed at identifying opportunities that will support progression. Follow-up sessions are held and prisoners are given encouragement to develop in a variety of areas. Board members have observed these sessions and can confirm their value.

The library is accessible and well used, with a local budget to help respond to prisoners' requests for specific items. One representative month during the year recorded over 2,000 visits to the library for a variety of purposes. Board members have seen evidence of the positive impact of library services on a prisoner who is learning to read with the Shannon Trust.

Educational courses cover a wide range of abilities and are arranged around an 'ABC model' and curriculum that gives prisoners an opportunity to mix educational and vocational training courses, including evening study. Prisoner attendance at education is high at 81%, with absences usually due to ROTL or other arranged appointments. Unauthorised absences are always followed up by prison staff.

Throughout the year, a total of 305 formal qualifications were achieved through educational and vocational courses delivered in the prison and via ROTL. The prison performs well in progressing prisoners in functional English and maths skills, showing a sustained and significant improvement in the prison service formal performance measures.

7.2 Vocational training, work

All prisoners under 67 are in education or employment, either via ROTL, internal industries or supporting prison services. Prisoners over retirement age can continue in suitable employment if they choose and are able. At the time of finalising this report, 94% of prisoners are classed as carrying out purposeful activity.

Prisoners carry out industrial work within the prison and, where appropriate, gain qualifications in the kitchens, farm, laundry, recycling and Fusion 21 workshops. Here, vocational courses are available in fitted interiors, plastering and tiling, leading to formal qualifications and in a number of cases, job outcomes on release. On 217 occasions, prisoners have carried out local paid work external to the prison in areas such as agriculture and horticulture, catering and hospitality, construction and recycling, transportation and storage.

The outreach department continues to develop and support links with community leaders, local employers and industries, leading to employment opportunities for individual prisoners and community working parties. There are insufficient local ROTL opportunities to support prisoner employment to the aspired levels, a risk that is acknowledged by the prison. Indications are that employers who were previously reluctant to take ex-offenders are now becoming more willing to do so, although barriers often remain for PCoSO prisoners. In an effort to boost local employment opportunities, a calendar of events is being developed for 2023 where local businesses will be invited in to the prison to talk about how they might be able to employ prisoners on ROTL and on release.



(Novus website photograph)

7.3 Offender management, progression

The OMU faced significant staffing issues over the reporting year. Latterly things have improved significantly with the appointment of new probation officers, probation service officers, prison offender managers (POMs), a senior probation officer and a number of new case administrators. Despite the pressure this put on existing staff through peer-to-peer training and support, the prison is to be commended for ending the year with a fully staffed OMU. The Board is satisfied that negative comments about the OMU must be seen against this backdrop.

Supporting the Governor in his efforts to increase the prison population at Haverigg, OMU staff are active in liaising with other prisons to obtain the information necessary to confirm a prisoner's suitability for category D conditions. During the year, the offender management in custody case management model was introduced, with all prisoners allocated a risk tier. A indicates the highest risk and D is the lowest. Approximately 62% of the prison population at Haverigg are in tier B with a further 9% assessed as tier A. OMU working practices have evolved throughout the year to ensure risks are managed most effectively.

Applications to the Board about sentence management doubled compared to last year, although the numbers involved are relatively small. The majority of these again concerned access to ROTL, leading the Board to carry out two light touch discharge surveys that asked questions specific to prisoners' experiences at Haverigg, progression, sentence management, ROTL and readiness for release. The Board has no evidence to suggest there have been delays in access to ROTL and the completion of testing plans but acknowledges this is the perception of some prisoners. It is felt that a sustained focus on communication and updates between POMs and prisoners can go a long way towards addressing concerns arising. POM drop-in sessions were introduced quite recently, which should help develop better communication links. Board members have attended ROTL application meetings and observed the depth of evidence presented in reaching a decision as to whether an applicant prisoner will be approved for ROTL access. It is the view of the Board that decisions reached are proportionate and appropriate.

The Board appreciates comprehensive reporting by the OMU to the prison council, which details ROTL application data, ROTL usage, ISRs and receptions and discharges. Throughout the year ROTL was used on 6,635 occasions; this includes 1,558 instances directly related to preparing prisoners for release, such as the maintenance of family ties on both a day and overnight basis, and other reasons linked to the sentence plan.

There are currently 289 PCoSO prisoners at Haverigg, making up approximately 89% of the prisoner population. Over 30% of prisoners are serving IPP sentences, with their eventual release subject to Parole Board and Justice Secretary approval. During the reporting year, 156 Haverigg prisoners left custody, of which 56 were released as directed by a Parole Board. Of these, seven prisoners had been serving a life sentence, 14 had been serving an IPP sentence, and 35 had been otherwise subject to an extended or discretionary sentence.

7.4 Family contact

The geographical isolation of the prison and the fact that prisoners' families may not live locally continues to make prison visiting very difficult. Social video calls have continued since the Covid pandemic, enabling prisoners to remain in touch with their families.

Concerns have been raised with the Board about individual prisoners being located far away from their families. It is understood that transfers between category D establishments are not usually accommodated. However, there have been a small number of cases where such transfers have been approved, based upon extenuating circumstances or where there is strong evidence that a transfer is likely to better support resettlement. The Board commends these actions and would encourage

every reasonable opportunity to locate prisoners as close as possible to their families.

The family visits provider –Visitor and Children’s Support Group – ended their services after 20 years, with a new provider – Partners of Prisoners Service (POPS) – in place from October 2022. It is too soon to assess the impact of this change, if any, on prisoners and their families.

7.5 Resettlement planning

Board members regularly attend monthly release management planning (RMP) meetings, where arrangements are confirmed for prisoners due for release. The RMP monitors a full range of factors that must be in place to help give the released prisoner the best opportunity for effective resettlement, including settled accommodation, employment, treatment services, benefits and bank accounts, and support from a nominated community offender manager (COM). Depending upon the prisoner’s risk profile, detailed liaison and handover arrangements between the prison and COM will commence at some point between seven and three months prior to release.

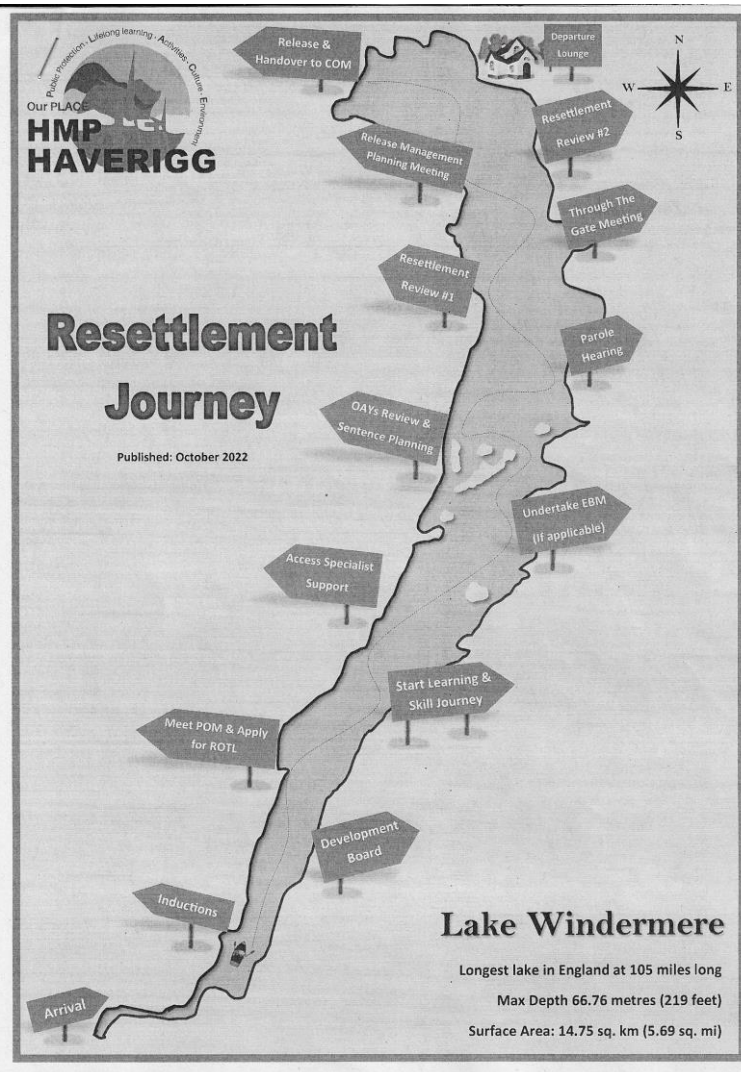
A significant amount of work occurs between departments and agencies to ensure that prisoners are supported to gain employment and accommodation on release. During the year, no prisoner left Haverigg without identified accommodation.

Representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Career Connect are available within the prison’s employment hub. Following up initial interviews when prisoners first arrive, support is available for CV building and accessing job centre websites. Help is targeted in the 14 weeks prior to a prisoner’s scheduled release date, coordinated by a ‘Through the Gate’ meeting involving all appropriate support services, to include job applications and the provision of tools, suits and other necessary equipment. Support from Career Connect continues for six weeks beyond a prisoner’s release, helping to ensure they are best prepared for the future. The DWP representative also helps make applications for universal credit, personal independence payments, pensions and pensions credit.

The latest Haverigg performance report indicates that 62% of prisoners were in employment six weeks after release from custody. This is a challenging area given the fact that a significant proportion of prisoners have been convicted of sexual offences. The Board believes that Haverigg’s performance compares favourably to that of other category D prisons.

Over the last three years, 355 prisoners have been released from Haverigg of whom just under 10% have been subsequently recalled to custody. Analysis is ongoing into these cases by the head of reducing reoffending to better understand why the individuals were recalled, and what they did or did not do in prison that may have had an impact. The aim is to learn where interventions might help reduce the number of recalls. The Board commends this work and would welcome sight of the findings.

Details associated with resettlement planning are made available to prisoners in the form of a booklet (see below), which breaks down all elements of a prisoner’s resettlement journey during their time at Haverigg. This sets out the component parts, with a brief explanation of what to expect and when, and is intended to help the prisoner successfully move towards release and resettlement.



The work of the IMB

Two board members resigned earlier in 2022, with a further member who had recently been recruited unable to take up the role due to ill health. One other long-standing member is currently on a sabbatical, and a new member recruited earlier in 2022 is about to complete his initial training and induction into the role.

The Board has carried out full monitoring activity, despite the challenges presented by a reduction in active members. The number of rota visits fell just below last year's total and were supplemented by regular attendance at key meetings, email and telephone contact with prison managers, as well as responding to applications and holding frequent face-to-face conversations with prisoners, both individually and in groups. The Board has also undertaken a small number of light touch reviews in discrete areas where levels of risk were reported or might otherwise be emerging.

Board members were fully involved in regional meetings and the open prisons chairs' group, which is itself led by the Haverigg IMB Chair, who is also a member of the IMB Management Board. The Board held a successful away day at a local venue, looking back on the year, completing the annual team performance review and starting to plan for 2023. An office in the Hive gives prisoners an opportunity to call in whenever an IMB member is present, although reduced numbers mean that at present occupation and usage is not yet as hoped.

The number of applications to the Board increased from 43 last year to 69 this year, a rise of 60%. The content of applications remains largely the same as in previous years with the loss of property on transfer once again causing concern to prisoners. Applications about sentence management increased, particularly about ROTL and delays in parole hearings.

By volume the majority of applications related to sentence management (33%), property during transfer (13%) and health (13%), which was the same as a year ago. This led to two light touch reviews of what the board considered to be risk areas. The first was a review of sentence planning, training and education, ROTL processes, release planning and relationships with the OMU from the prisoners' perspective; the second was a review of healthcare by the new provider as well as expectations set out in a separate report – *Understanding the needs and experiences of older people in prison* – produced by Clinks/Recoop. Both reviews remain subject to further analysis and discussion as necessary with prison service managers.

The Board has identified a small number of areas for review throughout 2023. These are ISRs and adjudications, also Comp 1s, Comp 1As and Comp 2s, looking at whether expected processes and timescales are adhered to by prison service staff. The Board will also review the findings of the HMIP thematic review *The experiences of adult black male prisoners and black prison staff*. In light of comments made by the head of EDI to suggest that prisoners from minority ethnic groups at Haverigg might not feel comfortable approaching staff with matters of concern (see section 4.2), members will discuss any areas of concern with the Governor.

Throughout the reporting year the Board has enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the Governor and his senior managers. Questions and concerns raised by Board members have been welcomed, and in turn IMB updates have been regularly provided to the Governor.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of board members	12
Number of board members at the start of the reporting period	7
Number of board members at the end of the reporting period	5
Total number of visits to the establishment	120

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	0	0
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	2	4
C	Equality	0	0
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	3	5
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	1	0
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	1	3
F	Food and kitchens	0	2
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	6	9
H1	Property within this establishment	0	2
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	11	9
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	11	23
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	1	4
K	Transfers	1	4
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	3	4
	Total number of applications	43	69

Annex

Prison development and upgrade programme

- 10-place independent living centre
- Central laundry facility and laundrette
- New OMU building
- New flooring in some accommodation blocks
- Roof repairs
- Replacement windows – rolling programme
- Self catering facilities in accommodation units - rolling programme
- IT developments
- Fire safety improvement plans
- Solar farm developments
- Initial planning for an enabling environment unit for prisoners with complex characteristics and/or at high risk of self harm



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