



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Full Sutton

**For reporting year
1 January 2022 – 31 December 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

HMP Full Sutton is one of five high security training prisons for category A and B adult men, and forms part of the long-term and high security prison estate. It is situated about 11 miles east of the city of York. It has a certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 631 and has an operational capacity (OC) of 594. At the end of 2022 the number of prisoners accommodated stood at 580.

Nearly all prisoners at Full Sutton present significant risks to security or the public at large. A small number of prisoners have committed offences connected with or sympathetic to terrorist goals and some have achieved significant criminal notoriety for other reasons.

HMP Full Sutton opened in 1987 as a purpose-built high security establishment. There are six main wings: A, E and F are general wings, and B, C and D wings accommodate vulnerable prisoners (prisoners who are vulnerable due to the nature of their offence or other reasons). The STEP unit is a reintegration wing for those complex prisoners who are leaving long-term segregation. There is also a segregation unit, a close supervision centre, a separation centre, and a healthcare unit.

The site also comprises a kitchen, education rooms and workshops, chaplaincy, gym, library, and visitors' centre. A reception area for prisoners' visitors is located outside the main gate.

The prison is part of the public sector, and although HM Prison Service is responsible for the operation of the establishment, the main service providers are:

- Milton Keynes College, for learning and skills
- Spectrum Community Health CIC, for health services
- GeoAmey, for escort provision
- AMEY, for provision of facilities management and site maintenance

The prison also works in partnership with:

- The Samaritans for the provision of training for prison Listeners
- Origin for the supply of gym equipment
- Sportsafe for the maintenance and repair of gym equipment

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

This report, which covers the period January to December 2022, is written against the background, at the beginning of the year, of continuing restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic and, in the latter half of the year, against the background of increasing staff shortages.

We reported in 2021 on the tight staffing levels brought about by Covid sickness, continued staff turnover, and the number of staff with less than two years' experience. Staff shortages continued into 2022, culminating in continuing regime lockdowns for prisoners, even when Covid restrictions were lifted. Officer shortages have led to staff in some key areas, such as safer custody, equalities, and drug testing, being detailed to work elsewhere, leaving these areas short of staff. The prison has worked to mitigate the effect of staff shortages on prisoners where possible, by ensuring lockdowns are applied fairly across the wings and units. Nevertheless, the net effect is that prisoners are spending less time out of their cells. The year also saw shortages of mental health and general nurses, and psychologists. Vacant posts remain into 2023.

Against this backdrop, which amounts to staff shortages in all areas, the prison has managed to ensure that it maintains a decent regime and a safe environment.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

The prison remained calm in 2022, and safety and security were maintained. While there was an increase in incidents of individual violence between prisoners, and between prisoners and staff, the IMB is of the view that this reflected the relaxation in the regime after Covid and the increase in interactions, rather than any change in atmosphere or safety. There was an increase in individual acts of self-harm, but the number of prisoners who self-harmed was the same as in 2021. We are satisfied that prisoners who were vulnerable or whose needs were particularly complex were regularly reviewed and supported during the year, and there was good sharing of relevant information between staff. No prisoner took his own life in 2022.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

Our assessment is that prisoners were treated humanely and fairly throughout the year, both during the last months of Covid restrictions and subsequently, despite the need to introduce a rota of lockdowns due to staff shortage. Careful thought was given to how regimes should run, both in the residential wings and in the special units, to ensure they remained decent and prisoners received showers, exercise and access to the telephone.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

Prisoners' health needs were generally met with clinics continuing to run. The shortage of mental health staff and general nurses meant coverage was tight. Access to the gym has been maintained, but activities to promote good health and wellbeing have not resumed since they were interrupted because of the pandemic.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

The provision of education has improved despite the challenges caused by regime lockdowns, which meant that prisoners could not attend regularly; the ability of prisoners to go to work has been restricted except for those working in DHL and the kitchens. Offending behaviour programmes are now available again to wider groups of prisoners following the end of Covid restrictions.

3.3 Main areas for development

The Board is carrying forward some areas for development identified in 2020 and 2021, which have not been fully implemented because of the continuing pandemic restrictions during the first half of 2022.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Continue to develop the STEP unit and ensure its role in the pathway to progression programme is clear, and that it can resume its role of breaking the cycle of segregation (see also section 5.5.3).

Ensure equalities meetings are held consistently (see also section 5.7.3).

Ensure that the focus on drug testing (random, suspicion, and reception) is maintained and takes place to the required levels (see also section 4.5.1).

3.4 Progress since the last report

3.4.1 Despite the continuing presence of the pandemic and increasing staff shortages in 2022, there has been some progress against the main areas for development and improvement identified by the Board last year. In particular:

- There have been improvements in both the provision and delivery of education in 2022. The challenge remains to improve educational provision in the prison's small specialist units, and in the light of continued restricted regimes and staff shortages.
- Workshop provision is being reorganised, and work has started on providing the long-awaited wood workshop.
- There has been an improvement in the handling of prisoners' complaints.

3.4.2 There has been less progress in the following areas:

- Drug testing levels remained low during the year.
- The focus on equalities has been less than it should be. Plans are in place for improvement in 2023.
- Although funding for the STEP unit was agreed during the year, the extent to which the unit is fulfilling its intended role of breaking the cycle of segregation remains unclear.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Prisoners with complex needs and those who present a risk because of vulnerability or violent behaviour are regularly reviewed. Complex needs/safety intervention meetings are held weekly, led by the governor responsible for safer custody. The meetings are multidisciplinary and attended by representatives from the safer custody team, the mental health team, wing custody managers (CMs), the residential and segregation governors, offender managers, a registered psychologist, the chaplaincy and the IMB in its monitoring role. The meeting reviews particularly complex prisoners whose behaviour may be causing concern; monitors, through input from the wings, prisoners on challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs) and those subject to assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) documents; reviews prisoners of concern in the segregation unit, transgender prisoners, young prisoners aged 25 and under, and any violent incidents that have occurred in the previous week. The meeting also considers any relevant information about new prisoners about to transfer, or who have just transferred, into the prison. The meetings are effective and the IMB has witnessed good sharing of information; they also ensure that staff from the relevant disciplines are regularly aware of the circumstances of particularly complex prisoners.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

4.2.1 The number of incidents of self-harm rose from 146 in 2021 to 206 in 2022, and involved 46 men, some of whom self-harmed on more than one occasion. In the reporting year 144 ACCT documents, which identify and set out the actions needed to support men at risk, were opened, very similar to 2021 levels. Our overall assessment is that safety was maintained and there was no increased risk of men self-harming during the year. The IMB attended very few ACCT reviews during the year because of less frequent attendance at the prison during the first half of the year. The number of Listeners in place, to support fellow prisoners, ranged from 14 to 22, a similar level to last year.

4.2.2 There was one death in custody during 2022 which was the result of natural causes. Inquests into deaths which occurred in the prison as long ago as 2018, and which were delayed because of the pandemic, were begun during the year.

4.2.3 The IMB has assessed that overall Full Sutton seeks to maintain a safe environment for prisoners and staff, and for the most part succeeds. The complex needs and safety intervention meeting ensures that, where necessary, there is proper liaison with other prisons and secure hospitals in advance of transfers in or out of Full Sutton.

4.2 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.2.1 During the year 35 CSIPs were opened as a result of potential violence or bullying between prisoners, compared with 139 in 2021. This figure has continued to fall significantly since 2020 and is the result of the regular review of the behaviour of

identified prisoners and the suitability of the CSIP approach; the continued relevance of plans for individuals is also regularly reviewed.

4.2.2. Prisoner-on- prisoner assaults rose from 28 in 2021 to 35 in 2022. Incidents of violence against staff also rose from 25 in 2021 to 38 in 2022, seven of which were classified as serious. As restrictions on prisoners' movement and association because of the pandemic relaxed further in 2022, there has been greater mixing between prisoners, allowing more opportunity for disputes to occur. Despite this, the atmosphere within the prison remained calm.

4.3 Use of force

4.3.1 Incidents of use of force decreased from 236 in 2021 to 195 in 2022.

4.3.2 Use of force by prison staff continued to be reviewed at use of force meetings, although there have been some cancellations. The regularity of use of force scrutiny panel meetings, under which a sample of incidents of force is selected by the IMB for review with senior staff, has been hampered by the inability of IMB members to attend the prison during the first half of the year and some staff unavailability. Scrutiny panel meetings will resume as soon as possible in 2023.

4.3.3 The IMB is satisfied that the prison's focus on security and safety, as well as safety issues arising from the pandemic, was maintained in 2022. Security issues that arose during the year were, for the most part, low level and minor.

4.4 Preventing illicit items

4.4.1 During 2022, 16 weapons were found across all areas. Target searching continued where there was intelligence.

4.5 Substance misuse

4.5.1 At the beginning of the year the drug testing regime was again affected by Covid restrictions, which meant that only around 50% of random drug tests and very few suspicion tests were carried out. Random drug testing targets were achieved between April and June, and again in August, but non-random testing levels have remained low throughout the year, with only around 26% of the possible maximum number being carried out. In cases where staff raised suspicions, only 43% of tests were subsequently conducted. Although this is a slightly larger percentage than last year, drug testing staff report that officers and other staff are now deterred from reporting suspicions of drug taking as they see no action being taken; reporting numbers are therefore low.

4.5.2 In all, 260.5 testing days were lost mainly due to staff being detailed to work elsewhere. The IMB raised the numbers of days lost and the absence of suspicion testing as an area of concern last year.

4.5.3 Overall, nine tests were positive. The majority were for synthetic cannabinoids; the remainder for opiates and tramadol. This is similar to 2021. While positive drug tests remain low, it remains the case that a large proportion of expected drug tests in key areas, are not being carried out .

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, food

5.1.1 The standard of accommodation is generally good, and all prisoners occupy single cells. The prison is well decorated and clean. From May prisoners again were able to opt out of prison supplied meals and cook their own food.

5.1.2 The kitchens continue to provide a good service. The IMB received only five applications relating to food in 2022, fewer than in 2021.

5.2 Segregation

5.2.1 The number of prisoners held in the unit at any one time averaged 26, a slightly higher figure than 2021. This reflects prisoners transferring into Full Sutton from the category B estate and following serious assaults on staff at other prisons. At times the population reached over 30.

5.2.2 When the unit population was 25 or below staff were able to deliver a full regime, with access to showers and the telephone offered to prisoners daily. When numbers were higher, between 25 and 29, telephone calls and showers were offered every other day; when the number was over 30, a more curtailed regime was delivered with showers and phone calls being offered every three days. By managing the high numbers in this way, the unit ensured that all prisoners on the unit had equal access to all aspects of the regime. The IMB is satisfied that this was a reasonable decision in the light of high numbers, and that the unit has continued to provide a decent and stable environment.

5.2.3 The condition of cells is good, and the unit has been redecorated. Cardiovascular exercise equipment has been provided in the exercise yard.

5.2.4 The shortage of mental health nurses and psychologists at the prison (see sections 6.1.3 and 6.1.4) has meant that access to them for segregated prisoners has been more limited than is ideal, as has been the case elsewhere in the prison. However, when necessary, access has been satisfactorily prioritised.

5.2.5 The average length of stay in segregation was 26 days. However, some prisoners remain in segregation for a longer period either because they refuse to locate to a residential wing or because they are kept in the unit for their own protection or until transfers can be arranged. Others have been in segregation both in Full Sutton and other establishments for a long time because of their very complex circumstances or needs. A centrally run pathways to progression scheme is in operation, to help move people on from segregation, but it can take several months to achieve moves to other types of units or secure psychiatric hospitals. We are satisfied that those managing the segregation unit have a good knowledge of individual prisoners and governors are proactive in trying to progress them out of the unit.

5.2.6 Four out of the seven incidents of serious assaults on staff in Full Sutton in 2022 occurred in the segregation unit. There were six incidents of dirty protest, and one of food refusal. Special accommodation was used on one occasion. Where such incidents have occurred, the IMB is satisfied that plans were put in place to manage prisoners decently with a view to enabling them to progress.

5.2.7 The IMB attended all fortnightly rule 45 boards during the year, at which prisoners' continuing location in segregation is discussed and approved. The segregation governor has a good knowledge of individual prisoners, and briefs other governors chairing the boards. Boards are normally satisfactorily conducted although, on occasions, the attending IMB member has not been able to endorse continuing segregation, as the required authorisation by the deputy director of custody (DDC), granting an extension beyond 42 days, has not been received in time. Action is taken by Full Sutton to rectify this quickly. Because of the shortage of mental health nurses, other nursing staff have sometimes attended the boards instead. On such occasions a mental health assessment has been completed in advance and the IMB is satisfied that there has been no detrimental impact on decisions to continue segregation.

5.3 The close supervision centre

5.3.1 The close supervision centre (CSC) is a small self-contained unit sited away from other prison wings and units; it houses prisoners who have committed very serious acts of violence in prison.

5.3.2 During the year, because of the way some prisoners in the unit interacted, it was necessary to run separate regimes for two or three separate cohorts of men. This, together with timetabled lockdowns (see sections 6.5.3 and 6.5.4), has meant on occasions less time out of cell for prisoners, which at the end of the year stood at 1 hour 15 minutes in both the morning and afternoon. This has, however, been accepted by the prisoners, with little pushback. The regime is decent and the unit stable and well run. It is well equipped and is the only unit in the prison to have livestock: the prisoners look after chickens.

5.3.3 Staff have a detailed knowledge of prisoners, which is reflected in the quality of their input into discussions and reviews of prisoner welfare and progress; the unit has two dedicated senior registered psychologists and a clinical nurse specialist.

5.3.4 Prison officers working in the CSC are also allocated to the separation centre.

5.4 The separation centre

5.4.1 The separation centre is a national resource and specialist unit housing prisoners who were either involved in planning terrorism, pose a risk to national security or who are seeking to influence others. It is separated from other wings and is self-contained in all aspects including for recreation and education. The wing, having previously closed in 2019, began taking prisoners again in September 2022.

5.4.2 Since its reopening, the number of prisoners has gradually increased, and regimes and practices on the unit are being established. Arrangements for education are in place. Staff are working to build relationships with prisoners there.

5.5 The STEP unit

5.5.1 The STEP unit is a small unit with a capacity of 10 prisoners, opened in 2019, as part of the long-term and high security estate's (LTHSE) pathways to progression programme. It aims to break the cycle of long-term segregation and prepare prisoners to re-enter mainstream location through a high level of purposeful activity and other psychology-informed services. The STEP unit offers a mixed regime for

both general and vulnerable prisoners. The unit operated at between 80% and 90% capacity during the year, reaching 100% capacity in the final quarter of 2022.

5.5.2 Prisoners are referred to the STEP unit from segregation units across the LTHSE. During 2022 there were 25 referrals to the unit; nine prisoners were accepted as suitable for admission. Referrals could be unsuccessful because a prisoner's behaviour was considered to be too dangerous, or because they had subsequently located to a normal location from segregation conditions, or because they had withdrawn consent for the referral during the process. During the year, four prisoners progressed from the STEP unit to normal location, and three were deselected due to poor behaviour or a failure to engage with the regime.

5.5.3 There has been some greater stability in staffing provision in 2022, although it is less than the original profile. In 2021 the Governor sought to define the purpose and future of the unit and ensure its funding. This was largely successful, although disruptions throughout the year have meant that the unit has yet to achieve its aims fully. The IMB will continue to monitor its progress in 2023.

5.6. Staff-prisoner relationships, key workers

5.6.1 Staff-prisoner relationships are satisfactory, and the IMB has witnessed some good interactions between staff and prisoners with very complex needs. As reported in 2021 the pandemic disrupted the planned approach to the delivery of key work sessions and this disruption continued into 2022.

5.7 Equality and diversity

5.7.1 There has been significant absence and changes of staff within the prison's equalities team, including at CM level. This has been compounded by staff absence and shortages within the general prison staff group, which has meant equalities staff being detailed to cover other duties. As a result, the focus on equalities in 2022 by the prison was limited.

5.7.2 The equality forum and action group meetings were sporadic, as were transgender prisoner meetings, and there were no regular meetings for black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners. The older prisoners group has been integrated into the disabilities group, because they share some of the same issues, but no regular meetings were held. The over-60s walking group was regularly cancelled due to staff being detailed to cover other duties.

5.7.3 The prison has plans to address this and has a scheduled programme of meetings in place for 2023. This will be important in the light of HMIP's criticisms in 2020, and the IMB will monitor progress in 2023.

5.7.4 There were 190 discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs) submitted by prisoners in 2022, fewer than in 2021, 93 of which related to race and 56 to religion and belief. The IMB examined a small sample of responses and found that all were good or satisfactory, a significant improvement in quality compared with previous years. The number of applications received by the IMB in 2022 relating to equality matters remained virtually the same as in 2021.

5.8 Faith and pastoral support

5.8.1 The chaplaincy team is an effective and committed group; it is visible and proactive. Members of the team regularly attend key meetings which consider the

welfare of prisoners, and they contribute fully. The chaplaincy team ran a six-week programme under the Sycamore Tree project, which focussed on victim awareness. The programme was designed to be a transformative one that helped prisoners develop empathy and promoted restorative justice. The final session, when the prisoners make an act of restitution, was attended by the IMB. The programme is a positive and welcome addition to the provision in prison and was valued by those who took part.

5.8.2 Corporate worship started again, after interruption because of Covid, in April 2022.

5.9 Complaints

5.9.1 The prison's focus, in 2021, on improving the quality of responses to prisoners' complaints continued into 2022. Quality assurance (QA) reviews by the senior management team (SMT) and the IMB continued.

5.9.2 This year, the IMB saw a decrease in the proportion of complaint responses that it judged to be unsatisfactory, from around 25-30% at the end of 2021 to around 10% at the end of 2022. We have witnessed concerted efforts to disseminate good practice to those staff within operational areas who deal with complaints, and this has resulted in more fair responses to complaints from prisoners.

5.10 Property

5.10.1 Applications to the IMB concerning property increased in 2022, perhaps reflecting the increased movement of prisoners in and out of the prison as restrictions lifted.

5.10.2 There are inconsistencies between the high security prisons in the way property is treated. In some, prisoners are encouraged to purchase large, see-through, plastic boxes to hold their property. However, these boxes are not allowed in Full Sutton and so must be stored whilst the prisoner is resident here. This uses up rack space and is costly.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

6.1.1 Spectrum Community Health CIC (Spectrum) provides or manages primary, general, psychiatric and mental health services within the prison, including outpatient services, chronic disease management, optician, health promotion programmes and referral to secondary care consultant services. These are provided for all residential wings of the prison including the CSC and separation centre. Dentistry is provided by Smart Dental Care, and commissioned separately by the local clinical commissioning group.

6.1.2. Spectrum also operates the prison's nine-cell in-patient unit, comprising six healthcare cells and two safer custody cells as well as a nursing suite.

6.1.3 At the end of 2022 there were two full-time equivalent general nursing posts staffed by long-term agency nurses, an improved position over 2021. These staff are experienced, having worked previously either in the long-term and high security prison estate or in psychiatric or mental healthcare environments. At the end of 2022 there remained four general nursing vacancies and one mental health nurse vacancy.

6.1.4 In 2022 the IMB received more applications concerning healthcare than in 2021, 43 compared with 24, although 14 of these applications originated from just two prisoners. The increase appeared not to be symptomatic of a deterioration in care levels. Applications instead reflected an increase in concerns relating to administrative aspects of healthcare, commentary on Covid restrictions, and issues Spectrum could not influence, for example waiting times for external hospital appointments or consultations.

6.1.5 In 2022, there were no adverse findings or recommendations to Spectrum arising from investigations into deaths in custody carried out by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO).

6.1.6 Overall, healthcare in Full Sutton was maintained at an acceptable level despite the challenges of Covid restrictions for part of the year, and the need to recruit a number of mental health staff. Primary care areas operated at near normal levels throughout most of the year.

6.2 Physical healthcare

6.2.1 Lessons learned during the pandemic resulted in some improved procedures; prisoners are now called to appointments just ahead of their appointment time rather than being called up en masse at the start of clinics. This resulted in shorter waits for prisoners and reduced the need for large numbers of prisoners to be held together in holding areas.

6.2.2 Prisoners were referred to outside hospitals for treatment when needed and, as in the community, more use was made of telephone consultations. Chronic disease management operated as usual, including MRI scanning, with the mobile unit visiting the prison four times during the year. An innovation in 2022 was the introduction of

an MRI scanning capability for larger prisoners and an ultrasound scan provision which prevents prisoners having to be escorted to outside hospital for this treatment.

6.2.3 The vaccination of prisoners against Covid continued in 2022 with the autumn booster being administered on the same basis as vaccinations in the community. Of the 307 prisoners eligible for the booster vaccinations, 70% accepted the invitation. Prisoners were free to choose not to be vaccinated, in the same way as members of the community. A smaller percentage of prisoners (58%) chose to receive the flu vaccination.

6.2.4 Hepatitis C screening for both prisoners and staff was offered for the first time in 2022, with 87% taking up the offer. From this, some previously unknown cases were detected.

6.2.5 During 2022 one GP was on long-term absence. There are plans to change the operation of the GP service in 2023 with the introduction of a full-time substantive GP, rather than relying on a small number of individual GPs carrying out clinics on a rota basis. The Board will monitor the success of this in the coming year.

6.2.6 Healthy living groups for prisoners, which were planned to address such things as diet, weight gain and exercise, again did not become established as planned during the year, as there were continuing disruptions caused by Covid at the beginning of the year. Prisoner focus groups were started in the final quarter in preparation for their formal introduction in 2023. These will be led by Spectrum and supported by physical education instructors (PEIs) and the kitchen. The creation of a specific wellbeing role for a manager to direct a healthy living emphasis amongst prisoners and staff is a positive initiative by the prison to challenge prisoner activity and weight gain which resulted from Covid lockdowns.

6.2.7 Waiting times for medical and other services were broadly in line with the community. Urgent case capacity is available with GP, dental and optician services, to allow rapid consultations for emergencies.

6.3 Mental health

6.3.1 Forty-five prisoners were on the mental health in-reach team's caseload at the end of the year, broadly the same as last year. During the year, 12 prisoners were transferred to Full Sutton from secure or medium secure hospitals and 23 prisoners are on the mental health register, equating to around 13% of the prison's population. This is broadly similar to last year. There was usually mental health input at rule 45 boards in the segregation unit, and in those ACCT reviews that IMB members attended.

6.3.2 Prisoners are able to self-refer to the mental health team and referral forms are made available to prisoners on residential wings. Prisoners are also reminded of this facility in the prison newsletter. The Board believes that the availability of this facility together with regular contact between vulnerable prisoners and their key worker and the work of prison Listeners and the safer custody team normally enables those in need of mental health support to be identified and to access it.

6.3.3 In the second half of the year, a number of mental health nurses and the head of the mental health in-reach team (MHIRT) left for alternative employment. Mental health agency staff were employed to fill the gaps and the role of head of MHIRT was covered by the head of clinical services. There is no evidence through applications to the IMB that the reduction in numbers of mental health staff resulted in significant issues for prisoners. In the last quarter of 2022, the IMB only received two applications directly related to mental health. Most vacancies have now been filled although, at the time of writing, some staff have yet to take up post due to the length of the clearance process. The post of head of the MHIRT had not, at the time of writing, yet been filled; the Board will monitor this and the effect of staffing levels on prisoner access to mental health services in 2023.

6.4 Social care

6.4.1 Social care assessments were undertaken during the year for prisoners in need of adaptations or aids, in-cell adjustments being made where necessary. There were two prisoners with care plans at the end of 2022.

6.4.2 Access to social care assessments for prisoners appears to be straightforward, with good interaction between the disabilities liaison officer and the local authority social services department.

6.5 Regime, exercise

6.5.1 In 2022, the prison regime continued to be affected by measures to prevent the spread of Covid. At the start of the year, workshops and face-to-face education classes were still closed; the wearing of face-coverings for prisoners when moving on and off the wings, and for staff, had been reintroduced; and in-cell association for prisoners was not allowed, although reduced numbers of prisoners were allowed to have socially distanced gym sessions. In January one wing was declared an outbreak site and prisoners testing positive for Covid were not allowed out of their cells for 10 days, and subject to regular interim testing.

6.5.2 Towards the end of February, the lockdown regime was relaxed, leading to the reopening of the college and workshops, albeit with reduced numbers; in-cell association was again allowed together with the use of indoor and outdoor exercise equipment. Relaxations continued until, in March, regimes began to return to pre-Covid arrangements. Covid restrictions ceased in the first half of May.

6.5.3 However, almost simultaneously, the prison began to feel the effects of staff shortages, and individual wings began to have lockdowns imposed at short notice; prisoners were locked in their cells for either the morning, afternoon, or evening periods. This enabled the prison to run a full regime on other wings. While this occurred mainly at weekends, it also occurred during the week, and led to some workshops and education sessions being lost. This approach continued throughout the summer.

6.5.4 In September, the prison recognised that the lockdowns needed to move to a semi-permanent rota basis to give prisoners some certainty about the regime and what they could expect. The prison introduced the new arrangements to prisoners

through the prisoner council and the prison newsletter. Although disliked, the new regime arrangements were largely tolerated. Access to the gym, healthcare and social visits were maintained during these lockdown periods, which served to mitigate some potentially adverse reactions.

6.5.5 The reduction in regime and time out of cell, so soon after the ending of the restrictions that had been in place because of Covid is unfortunate, although the prison sought to mitigate the effects as much as possible. Both the prison and the prisoners have handled the new arrangements well, and the regimes have remained decent.

6.5.6 In December funding approval was given to carry out preparations for the installation of in-cell telephones, from January 2023, which will improve prisoner conditions; the Board will monitor the progress of the work during the year.

6.5.7 During 2022 additional exercise equipment was installed in the exercise yards of residential wings, which prisoners have welcomed.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

6.6.1 The introduction of Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous groups, originally planned for 2021, did not take place again in 2022. Discussions resumed in 2022 with a view to re-establishing Alcoholics Anonymous groups in the first quarter of 2023, but no provision had as yet been made for Narcotics Anonymous. The Board will continue to monitor the establishment of these groups in 2023.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

7.1.2 There were substantial challenges to the provision of education in 2022, in particular: the emergence from Covid lockdown and the re-establishment of patterns of attendance and study; the need to align new pay and employment policies with educational priorities and provision; and the need to reorganise prisoner regimes. All placed significant demands on education.

7.1.3 Courses began in most subjects in April: English, maths, business, personal and social development, art and industrial cleaning. Catering started later in the year. There was also some improvement in training and accreditation in some of the workshops.

7.1.4. The provision of education in the prison's small units has suffered throughout lockdown and during 2022 because of staffing and regime constraints. There is some provision in the STEP Unit, CSC and separation centre, but this needs to be improved in 2023 within the new regime arrangements.

7.1.5 The IMB found good engagement in class and effective learning taking place. Attendance levels were encouragingly high in the first part of year, particularly in English. However, the imposition of increased lockdown regimes (see section 6.5.4) impacted on the continuity of prisoners' experience and also potentially on the quality of learning; by October, 24% of expected attendance had been lost through planned lockdowns. Expected attendance dropped and course completion took longer, although completion rates and attainment levels have generally remained high, particularly in English and maths. Level 2 pilot courses in English and maths achieved a 100% pass rate.

7.1.6 In our reports in 2019, 2020 and 2021, the IMB recommended improvements in the educational provision for prisoners. We have found that overall there has been improvement both in the management and delivery of education in 2022. There is evidence of innovation, in particular: the development of learning mentors; the continuing development of IT provision and virtual learning opportunities; the success of fast-track literacy and numeracy courses.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 Following Covid restrictions, workshops reopened in March, but the number of prisoners attending individual workshops has been irregular, and was sometimes very low, because of the changes to the regimes caused by wing lockdowns (see section 6.5.4). Prisoners working in the DHL workshop and the kitchens were released from locked down wings to attend work.

7.2.2 There was some progress in the year in opening new workshops, delayed by the pandemic. A barista station and recycling centre opened, as well as a light fitting assembly workshop; work to establish a long-planned wood mill was beginning at the time of writing (January 2023).

7.3 Offender management, progression

7.3.1 Prisoner offender managers (POMs) are now able, post Covid, to engage fully with prisoners when completing assessments and relevant reports. Prisoners

themselves have appropriate opportunities to contribute to OaSys, and category A, parole and RC1 reviews, and have reasonably good access to their POMs in preparation for reviews. The IMB has seen evidence of extensive POM support for prisoners waiting to make agreed moves to pathways to progression units.

7.3.2 The delivery of offending behaviour programmes (OBPs) has been affected by the training, nationally, of newly recruited facilitators, but all planned interventions were delivered, apart from one course. A wider group of prisoners than the priority groups targeted during the pandemic is now able to access OBPs; this includes prisoners who need an intervention to enable them to negotiate prison life successfully, as well as those whose risk reduction work is required for release.

7.3.3 The removal of Resolve (a medium intensity violence reduction programme) as an accredited OBP has led to a gap in suitable courses for some prisoners. Identity Matters (IM) which targets gang related violence, is not offered at Full Sutton and is difficult to access at other establishments because of high demand. Therefore, for those prisoners unsuitable for the Thinking Skills Programme (TSP), access to the most appropriate OBP is delayed. Demand is not likely to be met until the next generation of accredited programmes, expected in 2023, or a change is made to what is offered and available at Full Sutton.

7.3.4 A shortfall in the number of qualified psychologists at Full Sutton has affected the department's ability to meet fully its responsibilities in terms of consultancy, parole and category A reporting. Out of 13 profiled qualified psychologist posts, there were seven vacancies throughout 2022. Most of the qualified psychology team worked overtime to cover the shortfall. Deadlines for the completion of parole reports have generally been met but category A reports were sometimes delayed.

7.3.5 The shortfall in psychologists also meant that the level of consultancy provided to the specialist units (CSC, separation centre, STEP unit and segregation unit) was lower than ideal but was sufficient for safety and security to be prioritised.

7.3.6 Twenty IPP (imprisonment for public protection) prisoners are resident at Full Sutton, 12 of whom are over tariff; their support needs are reviewed bi-monthly. Access to interventions is available, but the experience of some staff is that for some IPP prisoners the emotional impact of their sentence acts as a barrier to them accessing the appropriate intervention or therapeutic setting.

7.4 Family contact

7.4.1 Prisoners' contact with their families has been maintained through social video calls by which prisoners have face-to-face contact with their families by video link; it remains popular and is well used. Social visits began again in April.

7.5 Resettlement planning

7.5.1 Only a small number of prisoners are released directly from Full Sutton and this occurs only when prisoners continue to need management within the high security estate prior to release, and therefore cannot move to a lower category prison. Release planning and resettlement arrangements are appropriately managed for these prisoners.

The work of the IMB

The work of the IMB continued to be slightly curtailed at the start of the year while Covid remained at large, with fewer visits to the prison, although monitoring continued remotely. During the year, monitoring returned to normal with members working fully within the prison and seeing prisoners in work and education settings, on the wings and in special units, and attending rule 45 boards and relevant meetings. Three IMB members left the Board during the year. One new member has been recruited and will join the team fully in 2023.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	17
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the establishment	275
Total number of segregation review Boards attended	26

Applications to the IMB (including via the 0800 telephone line)

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	11	11
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives, sanctions	17	20
C	Equality	6	7
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	14	21
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	16	20
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	8	6
F	Food and kitchens	8	5
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	24	43
H1	Property within this establishment	4	12
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	6	13
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	1	2
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorization	5	8
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	28	35
K	Transfers	4	3
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	38	48
	Total number of applications	190	254

Note: Five of the above applications in 2022 were received via the IMB national 0800 freephone telephone application line.



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