



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Hull

**For reporting year
1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023**

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Contents

Introductory sections 1 – 3	Page
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of establishment	4
3. Executive summary	5
Evidence sections 4 – 7	
4. Safety	9
5. Fair and humane treatment	10
6. Health and wellbeing	14
7. Progression and resettlement	16
The work of the IMB	
Board statistics	18
Applications to the IMB	18

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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 to the prison's records.

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

2. Description of the establishment

2.1 HMP & YOI Hull is a category B prison, a local prison holding remand, sentenced, and convicted males. Prisoners are employed in the workshops, kitchens, gardens, and waste management departments. Education classes are also available to prisoners.

2.2 Hull is a national sex offender treatment programme resource and has a national psychologically informed planned environment (PIPE) unit housing 50 prisoners convicted of sexual offences¹.

2.3 HMP & YOI Hull has an operational capacity (the maximum number of prisoners that can be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime) of 958 against a certified normal accommodation (the number of prisoners a prison can hold without being crowded) of 723. Major maintenance works have taken place throughout the year, which will continue into the 2023/24 reporting year. As a result, operational capacity of the establishment has been reduced.

2.4 Healthcare was initially provided by City Healthcare Community Partnership during the reporting year. Following a tendering process, Spectrum Healthcare and NHS Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust took over contractual responsibility for healthcare delivery in August 2022.

2.5 Education is provided by Novus, both in-house and distance learning.

2.6 Resettlement and through the gate (TTG) services are provided by a unit at the prison, Humber Care, Jobcentre Plus and Shelter and other charities.

2.7 Maintenance is mainly provided by GEO Amey: facilities management and some in-house handyman provision.

2.8 There is input from specialist charities such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Citizens Advice.

¹ Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting, but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

As reported in the previous reporting year (2021/22), the scope of the Board's monitoring has again been limited due to the current number of active members. Whilst two members completed their training and induction period at the start of the reporting year, this only replaced two active members who resigned. During most of the reporting period, the Board has been made up of five active members, in contrast to a recommended complement of sixteen. During the 2022/23 year, four new members have been appointed, three in last quarter. As a result, the training and development of new members will continue to be a priority of the Board in the next reporting year.

In July 2021, HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) undertook an announced inspection at the establishment, having last undertaken an inspection in 2018. The findings of the 2021 inspection found that the judgement against the four healthy prison outcomes had declined from 'reasonably good' to 'not sufficiently good' in all four areas. The current Governor has been in place since July 2021 and the senior leadership team (SLT), who are assistant governor and above, has remained stable during the reporting year. The IMB recognise the efforts of Governor and his SLT to enhance the performance of the prison establishment.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

There were two deaths in custody during the 22/23 reporting year, both were from natural causes.

Generally, the Board finds the prison to be a safe place, with prisoner on prisoner violence the lowest within its benchmarking group and second lowest for staff assaults.

A scrutiny and review forum of use of force incidents is in place, with follow up action taken as appropriate including feedback for good practice.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

As reported in previous years, the Board is concerned that due to insufficient capacity within the prison estate prisoners are commonly accommodated in double cells which are inadequate both in size and design, with no long-term strategy to resolve this. Despite some recent improvements following ongoing maintenance work, prisoners in wheelchairs have difficulties accessing facilities such as showers. Whilst generally facilities are kept clean and habitable, occasionally periods of overflowing waste and litter have been raised by the Board and this appears to have exacerbated an ongoing vermin infestation.

The Board has raised concerns during the reporting year relating to the quality of the establishment's food offering, notably the ability for prisoners to obtain a healthy and balanced diet without subsidising their diets with personal funds. The catering offering is significantly hampered by the national funding allocation, which appears to be insufficient to meet the continuing rising cost of food.

As in prior years, the Board has regularly observed exemplary care provided by officers to prisoners often in distressing and challenging circumstances, such as within the segregation unit and wellbeing unit. Positive prisoner and officer relationships are observed throughout the establishment, with officers demonstrating detailed knowledge of the prisoners within their care.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

In our previous annual report, it was reported that '*healthcare needs have generally not been consistently and satisfactorily met due to contractual failures and staff absences*'. Following a tendering process, the contractual responsibility for healthcare was transferred in August 2022. Prisoner applications to the IMB reduced when compared to the previous reporting year and the Board have observed significant operating changes and improvements from the new healthcare providers. However, at the end of the reporting year, the provision of healthcare services was still in a state of transition, with further improvements planned into the next year.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

Education screening on arrival to the establishment has improved to identify any numerary or literacy skills. Initial discussions focus on aspirations and the effective use of their time in prison to work towards successful resettlement.

The establishment has worked to upgrade and align its industries unit offering, to closer align with available local employment, which the Board supports as a positive step forward to support the resettlement of prisoners.

The Board has been made aware by the establishment's probation team within the prison, of significant resourcing pressures within the outside team, which results in the inability to maintain the level of support needed in the final months after release.

Other

Throughout the reporting year the Board have experienced access issues to computer hardware, systems and a working telephone for the allocated IMB office. Whilst these were raised with the prison on numerous occasions, the Governor only became aware as part of the conclusion of our annual report. The Governor has expedited the issue and given assurances that the issues will be resolved as swiftly as practicably possible.

3.3 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- Consider the issues of insufficient capacity within the prison estate which continues to see prisoners housed in double cells which are inadequate both in size and design for this purpose and impinge upon the right to privacy and dignity. *See also section 3.4 (progress since the last report) noting the same concerns raised in our 2021/22 report and limited progress in this area.*

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- Prisoners' property, particularly on transfer, remains a significant issue for the Board. How will the prison service put systems in place to resolve these

issues? See also section 3.4 (progress since the last report) noting the same concerns raised in our 2021/22 report and limited progress in this area.

- Despite a recent uplift in the daily budget allocation per prisoner for catering, the establishment continues to provide additional funding from other budget allocations. Furthermore, prisoners were found to subsidising their diets with their own personal funds. Will the Prison Service be significantly increasing catering budget allocations in response to increased food supplier costs to ensure a healthy and balanced diet can be provided to each prisoner?
- Significant resourcing challenges within the outside Probation Team result in staff being unable to maintain the level of support needed over the final months and after release. What is the Prison Service doing to address these resourcing challenges?

TO THE GOVERNOR

- As per section 3.4 (progress since the last report) further work to address the delivery of key worker performance and support for young adults is planned for the next reporting year. The Governor should therefore ensure sufficient focus is provided to ensure traction in both areas delivers better outcomes for prisoners.
- The Governor should ensure all reasonable steps are taken to improve food quality (notably lunch time offering), whilst continuing to work within very restricted budgetary constraints (see also 'to the Prison Service').
- The Governor should address and resolve the present issues where many members of the IMB do not have full access to the required IT systems within the establishment.

3.4 Progress since the last report

Issue raised in the previous report (2021/22)	Progress made
To the Minister - Consider the issues of insufficient capacity within the prison estate which continues to see prisoners housed in double cells which are inadequate both in size and design for this purpose and impinge upon the right to privacy and dignity.	Whilst the ministerial response to our 2021/22 report referenced some reduction in national overcrowding figures, capacity issues within the prison estate remains a major concern of the Board. Infrastructure improvement work across the estate (including at HMP Hull) has further exacerbated the issue of overcrowding. Prisoners continue to be housed in double cells which are inadequate for this purpose. The use of Operation Safeguard during the reporting year across the estate further evidences the issue with insufficient capacity within the prison estate. Throughout the year, the Board has engaged with prisoners transferred from establishments across the country due to operational capacity issues, where they have been placed in the only prison with available space, even if it is the wrong category/type of establishment. As a result, prisoners are located significant distances from family and outside support networks.
To the Minister - Improve the work of outside contractors and	The process of tracking prisoners' progress towards release is now thorough, and carefully monitored across the prison. The Probation Team within the prison is committed to

organisations responsible for ensuring appropriate accommodation and support is available on release to reduce the risk of re-offending as they are not communicating effectively with the in-prison resettlement team.	supporting this process, though they have been challenged by some staff shortages. They have also expressed concern about their probation colleagues based outside the prison, who are understaffed and unable to maintain the level of support needed over the final months and after release. Shortcomings in provision of what prisoners need when they go back into society are effectively tracked, and records show that some prisoners reject the housing support that is available.
To the Prison Service - Prisoners' property, particularly on transfer, remains a significant issue for the Board. How will the prison service put systems in place to resolve these issues?	Whilst the HMPPS response to our 2021/22 report referenced the development of the new Prisoners Property Policy Framework, it is the view of the Board that this has not resulted in significant and meaningful improvements in this area.
To the Governor - Continue to develop the attitude-changing interventions with young adults.	The Prison has made progress in delivering support to adult prisoners. This has included allocating peer mentors and specific key workers. The Prison is currently reviewing its young adult strategy, which is due to be updated during 2023, focusing on prisoner outcomes.
To the Governor - Restore the full support from key workers.	Key worker delivery performance increased month on month from August 2022 to January 2023. However, the prison acknowledges there is further work needed. A specific strategy relating to key worker delivery is due to be developed in the first half of the next IMB reporting year.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

Visits to the establishment found officers preparing prisoners in reception, they were observed being treated fairly and with respect. Prisoners have a medical review on arrival before going on to the induction wing. The body scanner has been invaluable in reducing the amount of illegal substance entering the prison.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

There have been 434 incidents of self-harm on all wings, December had the most incidents with 64. Across the other months there were four months which had incident figures in the 20's and the remainder of the months were in the 40's.

The prison has a wellbeing unit that accommodates men who self-harm and have mental health issues. As in the previous reporting year, we have found during the year that prisoners at risk of self-harm are monitored and are well supported. It has been difficult for some however, to access specialist mental health care when needed.

There were two deaths in custody during the 22/23 reporting year, both were apparently from natural causes.

The Board has continued to experience some problems with communication from the prison at the time of incidents, due to confusion over who to call, even though rotas are supplied on paper, via email and on the computer shared drive. The Board was informed of all deaths in custody, however, and comprehensive information was easy to obtain from prison staff.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

There were 190 violent incidents in 22/23, an increase from 175 in our 21/22 report. The prison continues to monitor trends relating to violence to address the issue. Analysis found that most violent incidents involved the 26-35 age group. Whilst there has been a rise in violent incidents at Hull this is representative of the prison estate as a whole.

There were 43 staff assaults in the reporting period. When measured against its benchmark group of prisons, HMP Hull has the lowest prisoner on prisoner violence and the second lowest number of staff assaults.

4.4 Use of force

Since our 2021/22 report, use of force has increased with 406 incidents in the reporting year. There was a sharp rise in August and December, these were the highest in the last few years. There was no recorded use of PAVA (an incapacitant spray) or baton usage by officers during the 22/23 reporting year.

The Board are aware that all use of force incidents continue to be scrutinised and follow up action taken, including positive feedback for good practice, coaching conversations where improvement in performance is required, and in exceptional cases escalated for further scrutiny or investigation. We have continued to monitor this area and a representative from the IMB regularly monitors the monthly use of force meeting.

4.5 Preventing illicit items.

The prison has worked to reduce illicit substances coming into the prison, with work including the body scanner in reception, intelligence-based cell searches and the photocopying of prisoner's domestic mail.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, and food

Accommodation

Residential complaints accounted for 16.7% of all complaints received by the establishment in the reporting year. The Board has continued to receive applications (written representations to the Board) throughout the year raising concerns relating to cell quality and an ongoing vermin infestation of rats. Over previous reporting years, the Board has raised concerns regarding the insufficient capacity within the prison service and that as a result, prisoners continue to be accommodated in double cells which are inadequate both in size and design for this purpose.

Despite the Ministerial response to our 2021/22 Annual Report referencing some reduction in national overcrowding figures, capacity issues within the prison estate have continued during the current reporting year, exacerbated by infrastructure improvement works (including at HMP Hull). As a result, prisoners have been transferred from HMP Hull to establishments nationally because of operational capacity pressures, on occasions significant distances from family and outside support networks. Whilst the prison has worked to reactively address accommodation and cell quality issues, a wider programme of meaningful programme maintenance continues and will run into the next IMB reporting year. As part of planned improvement works, shower facilities will be upgraded in the older Victorian side of the prison which will increase the number of wheelchair accessible facilities. However, we note that some wider accessibility issues (partially in segregation remain).

Food

The Board has continued to receive frequent applications and comments relating to the quality and portion size of the food offering. During the reporting period the IMB took careful note of the quality and quantity of food being provided to inmates within the establishment. The IMB recognise that severe budgetary restrictions have had a profound effect upon the food being provided to prisoners within HMP Hull. We are aware that the establishment's SLT have continued to work with catering and enhance the allocated £2.12 per prisoner per day, by 'topping up' from other budget allocations.

Although prisoners were in general satisfied with the evening meal offering, the meal offering at lunchtime was found to be very limited and predominantly based upon protein and carbohydrates with extremely limited evidence of vegetables and/or fruit being made available. It is the view of the IMB that during the report period that unless prisoners were able to subsidise their diets the food provided by the establishment would not offer a healthy or balanced diet which had the potential to lead to health issues within some of the prison population.

5.2 Segregation

The segregation unit houses up to ten prisoners and there is generally sufficient capacity for day-to-day needs. There is an additional wellbeing unit which provides accommodation for prisoners with mental health issues for whom the segregation unit would be inappropriate.

The Board has consistently monitored segregation by visiting during weekly rota visits, ensuring prisoners are spoken to. As in previous reporting years, most prisoners are content with their treatment, and some are very positive about the level of support provided. Due to the nature of the unit, staff at times have to deal with extremely difficult and volatile prisoners until a place in a more appropriate establishment can be found. We have continued to observe staff in these situations dealing with the prisoners with care and compassion, with detailed management plans in place for those residing in the unit for long periods of time.

Sample observations of adjudications and segregation review hearings found that proceedings are well managed, with information presented at an acceptable level for the prisoner to understand. Multiple departments, particularly healthcare, are involved in hearings as appropriate. Board members have found the establishments SLT, to be well informed of complex prisoners housed in the unit, when necessary, taking appropriate action such as working with receiving establishments.

5.3 Staff-prisoner/detainee relationships, key workers.

Throughout the reporting year, the Board has continued to observe positive prisoner and officer relationships on main wings, in segregation and in healthcare. Many officers demonstrate detailed knowledge of the prisoners within their care and support their wellbeing including promoting education, employment and rehabilitation opportunities within the prison.

The prison has worked during the reporting year to increase the performance of key worker delivery (where a designated officer provides ongoing 1-2-1 support to a prisoner, in a weekly session), with a month-on-month improvement August 2022 to January 2023. However, at the time of concluding our annual report, the prison accepts that key worker delivery is a key area of focus of 2023/24 and as such a key worker strategy is to be developed to further support a continued focus and continued improvement in this area.

The establishment operates a regular forum to allow representatives of the prisoner population to raise their concerns with prison officers and other staff such as healthcare professionals. Prisoners who have the role of Prisoner Information Desk (PID) workers attend these monthly meetings and represent the interests of their

respective wing communities. The IMB have found these meetings to be constructive with establishment staff listening positively to concerns raised by PID workers and stating that they will try and address the concerns raised. The IMB noted that PID workers have on occasion raised their frustration that the same agenda items were discussed each month with no or little perceived progress being made to address their concerns. This observation has recently been raised by the IMB with the prison leadership.

5.4 Equality and diversity

Equality and diversity is managed within the prison by the diversity and inclusivity lead and senior managers as part of the diversity and inclusivity action team (DIAT) which meets regularly to consider issues around protected characteristics in the prison population. DIAT meetings are relatively well attended, and minutes are available on the prison shared drive. Several prison user forums, based around protected characteristics are in place, but there are sometimes issues around consistency in these taking place.

The establishment, in common with most other custodial settings has a varied demographic with a relatively low black, Asian and minority ethnic population (around 20-25 % of total population on average) and an increasing cohort of aging prisoners.

Issues for the Board have centred around applications related to claims of racial discrimination (mainly by staff), religion and disability. Reporting of perceived discrimination is via the discrimination incident report forms (DIRF) which should be available to all prisoners. In 2022, 81 DIRFs were submitted. DIRFs are quality checked by the Governor, generally responded to within the given time frame and the facility to automatically redirect relevant general complaints to the DIRF system (where appropriate) has recently been put in place. Data around DIRF processing and responses is available to the Board.

The prison houses a number of prisoners convicted of a sexual offence, who are separated from the general population in both residential accommodation and employment.

The Board is concerned about the insufficient availability of accommodation suitable for those with physical disability and there have been issues with wheelchair users being physically unable to access areas due to the width of doorways and prisoners housed in accommodation lacking appropriate aids to self-care e.g. grab rails in bathroom areas, specialist mattresses, ramps etc.

For those with learning difficulties, literacy problems etc. there is still a reliance on written access to the general applications/complaints system and written responses to these. A system for verbal routes to and from these systems is sometimes used but does not appear to be fully embedded in the staff culture.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

A new Managing Chaplain was appointed at the end of the reporting year, who is working to resolve gaps in the chaplaincy offering (Church of England, Rastafarian, Sikh, Later Day Saints, Hindu and Christian Scientology). However, worship materials are regularly provided to prisoners without a faith chaplain.

The Chaplaincy Team have continued to promote religious self-study courses and the prison visitor scheme via the information guide is available to prisoners. A schedule of weekly religious worship and instruction classes has been in place, with additional support and events at times of religious festivals.

The IMB have been made aware of some issues throughout the year regarding access to religious materials and the timely escort of prisoners to religious worship and classes, these issues have been escalated by the new Managing Chaplain.

5.6 Incentives schemes

The Board has received no direct applications relating to the incentive scheme during the reporting year. Three complaints have been received by the prison in relation to incentives scheme, all of which have been reviewed by the IMB and deemed to provide a clear response to the complaint raised.

5.7 Complaints

The total number of complaints received in the reporting year remained below the individual comparator group average for the establishment throughout the twelve-month period. Four categories received 56.3% of all complaints made, these were residential (16.7%), offender management (14%), finance/cash (13.1%) and property (12.5%).

The establishment has worked to improve the percentage of complaints responded to within five working days, despite staffing challenges, and for the last three months of the IMB reporting year compliance averaged 88%.

Since September 2022, the prison recommenced detailed complaint analysis reporting to the SLT, which included data of trends by complaint type for discussion, investigation and where appropriate further action. Furthermore, during the reporting year the Head of Business Assurance reintroduced a monthly sample quality check of 10% of complaints. The sample review by the prison identifies areas of best practice, as well as identifying any cases in which the response was not deemed to meet the expected standard and corrective actions were then identified. The Board has reviewed a sample of these checks throughout the year, finding that many responses were deemed to be of a high standard and those for which the standard appeared to fall short of expectations, this was already identified by the prison's initial review.

5.8 Property

As referenced above, property was one of the four areas the establishment received the most complaints and the Board has continued to receive high numbers of applications in regard to this.

Those relating to property inside the prison were resolved by the establishment. However, the Board did not see any significant improvement in the handling and management of prisoner property on transfer, despite raising concerns in previous annual reports and the introduction of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework. Whilst the Framework requires the discharging prison to forward any additional property (above the volumetric control limits of the Prisoner Escort Contractor Service) within four weeks unless exceptional circumstances prevent this, we have received applications and spoke with prisoners that had exceeded this timeframe.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

The provision of healthcare services was contracted to City Health Care Partnership (CHCP) until August 2022. A prior inspection from HMIP in July 2021 found that the healthcare contract was failing prisoners, with poor and inadequate service provision. Following proactive involvement from senior prison management and the regional commissioning board, CHCP agreed to terminate their contract due to failure to provide services. The contract for healthcare services went out to tender and the new contractors are NHS Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and Spectrum, and were operational from 23rd August 2022.

A member of the IMB now regularly monitors the local delivery board (LDB) meetings with Spectrum, which are also attended by members of the SLT from the prison along with the CEO of Spectrum.

It was disappointing that under CHCP healthcare services were not providing the quantity and quality of services expected within the contractual arrangements. It was noted that healthcare managers were not always attending the LDB meetings and the pressure on staff working daily in the centre was beyond what would be expected. Senior managers from Spectrum consistently attend LDB meetings.

For those healthcare staff working at the prison during this period, the IMB members recognised and commended their commitment to their patients and the knowledge they have of each prisoner. Some members of staff transferred from CHCP to the new providers after careful vetting and interviews.

Under CHCP training for staff was carried out over a three-year period, under Spectrum, this is now an annual requirement, which should lead to an improvement in care for all prisoners and ensures that staff are fully engaged. Mental Health staff also receive training if they are to attend Coroners court.

Spectrum hold a complex case review every other Monday, for prisoners that are in the wellbeing unit (WBU). The list is fluid given the moving population of prisoners. The register covers Dementia as well as other medical and physical cases.

The IMB noted that the physical presence of employees from the new healthcare providers was in evidence around the wings of the prison.

Prescribed tradeable medications are much higher than in a comparable prison (Durham), this is monitored and reported on each month to the LDB.

6.2 Physical healthcare

A variety of clinics are held mornings and afternoons, including specialist services (dentist, physiotherapy, and mental health support).

All newly arrived prisoners are seen in reception by nursing staff for assessment of their immediate medical needs. However, due to a continuing theme of court and escort issues, the Board noted and recognised that it was not uncommon for there to be late arrivals into the prison and healthcare staff remained on duty to carry out assessments.

Applications to the Board relating to the healthcare services decreased on the previous reporting period. As the healthcare services are provided by a third-party contractor, complaints are not tracked by the prison and are dealt with centrally by the provider/s, The Board found that approaches to CHCP (the provider until August 2022) to obtain information on progress and response times have been almost impossible to obtain, however this had significantly improved with the two new providers. The majority of applications received by the Board related to repeat prescriptions and GP services. It has been noted in rota reports and feedback that there were periods of up to two weeks when there was no GP was on duty. This raises obvious concerns about the monitoring and care of prisoners' health, especially those who are extremely vulnerable.

6.3 Mental health

The in-cell telephone system has been widely used for consultations and assessments of prisoners presenting with mental health issues. A psychiatrist makes regular visits and consultations.

Wellbeing unit

The wellbeing unit has single cell beds for 11 prisoners. There are also 3 gated cells for those prisoners on constant supervision. There is 1 social care cell on the unit.

This unit provides care, support and assessment for those prisoners with serious mental health problems. Additionally, one prisoner has been on the unit for some months due to ongoing physical health issues.

A psychiatrist visits regularly and, following full psychiatric assessments, a number of prisoners have been transferred from this unit to secure mental health hospitals.

The day-to-day challenge for staff working in this environment cannot be underestimated. It is recorded on most rota reports that the attention and support by officers to the prisoners in their care is commendable. There is good in-depth knowledge of each individual prisoner's mental health needs. The communication between prisoner and officer has been observed to be appropriate, reassuring, and respectful. From overall observations, the wellbeing unit appears to be a safe and well-run centre.

6.4 Social care

There are two dedicated wings which provide appropriate facilities for older prisoners and those with ongoing medical and mobility conditions. On those wings, a buddy system runs, with prisoners assisting fellow prisoners with their day-to-day care. These are basic tasks such as cell cleaning, laundry, and meal collection. Buddy carers do not carry out personal hygiene or medical care. The social care service is directed from outside the prison through the local authority and its resources. However, there is good integration of care between the healthcare unit and outside provision. Specialist healthcare clinics are necessary to ensure those prisoners with life-long conditions are supported through regular assessments.

6.5 Exercise, regime

During the reporting year the prison transitioned from one where COVID protocols were in place and gym-based exercise was restricted back to a 'normal' regime. The gym facilities, when in full use, provide a range of equipment which is comparable to similar gyms in the community. Outside exercise has continued for all prisoners. When COVID protocols were in place prisoners spent extended period in their cells however there has now been a return to a normal regime. Periods of extended time within cells may have caused their mental and physical health to deteriorate. Outside work groups have continued, such as gardens and litter cleaning.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

There has been little to report on the services for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, with staff shortages in this area ongoing all year. This shortage will have impacted on services, but it is not possible to give any data on how this has been recorded, other than the high number of prisoners on the caseload. In January 2022, it was noted that a quarter of the prison population was registered with the drug and alcohol rehabilitation team.

6.7 Soft skills

We have not made any observations on this area during the reporting year.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Education is provided by Novus. The induction process has improved. As well as identifying any shortage of numeracy or literacy skills which are essential for effective resettlement, the initial discussions offer new arrivals opportunities to consider their aspirations and how they could utilise their time in prison to cope more effectively with the demands of modern society.

Education has returned to the classroom, and sessions covering maths and IT that we have monitored appeared to be engaging for most of the learners. There are still prisoners of various ages who struggle to cope with being directed by a teacher in the presence of their peers. The ability of teachers to cope with this is variable, as some of the teams are not very experienced. There has been a significant turnover of staff, which has been reported to the Board to be due to new recruits having used the prison as a starting point that gives them experience which enhances their applications to work in better paid jobs in schools.

The availability of other courses has been limited during lockdown and has only recently started to improve. Courses offering vulnerable prisoners opportunities to change the way they think about relationships and responsibilities have only just restarted, so there is a significant backlog to be dealt with before recent arrivals can enrol on a course.

7.2 Vocational training, work

The industries unit was undergoing renovation during the reporting period. Consequently, several of the workshops which were providing activities, qualifications and distraction are not currently available. This is part of a plan to upgrade the range of activities to have closer links with available local employment, providing experience and qualifications that will support prisoners to reintegrate into society.

The activities that were still available did offer opportunities for prisoners to learn new skills and gain qualifications, as well as being a distraction from the boredom on the wings. The jobs around the prison such as waste management, gardening, and wing cleaning and the various support roles for other prisoners are purposeful and personally satisfying.

7.3 Offender management, progression, and Resettlement planning

The process of tracking prisoners' progress towards release is now thorough, and carefully monitored across the prison. The probation team within the prison has been observed to be committed to supporting this process, though they have been challenged by some staff shortages. They have also expressed concern about their probation colleagues based outside the prison, who are understaffed and unable to maintain the level of support needed over the final months and after release. Shortcomings in provision of what prisoners need when they go back into society are effectively tracked, and records show that some prisoners reject the housing support that is available.

7.4 Family contact

We have not made any observations on this area during the reporting year.

The work of the IMB

The board continues to provide monitoring to the best of its abilities given the continuing shortage of members. Essential monitoring of key areas was maintained, but the opportunities for focussed monitoring activities has been limited.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	7
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9 (3 in training)
Total number of visits to the establishment	192
Total number of shifts on the 0800 telephone line*	0
Total number of segregation reviews attended	48

*If relevant

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

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	10	14
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	5	5
C	Equality	6	15
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	8	10
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	24	11
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	1	11
F	Food and kitchens	4	3
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	32	21
H1	Property within the establishment	18	22
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	5	7
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	4	2
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	10	8
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	25	22
K	Transfers	4	2
L	Miscellaneous	17	50
	Total number of applications	173	203



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