



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board HMP/YOI Parc Heol Hopcyn John Bridgend South Wales CF35 6AP

19 October 2023

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HMP/YOI PARC: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 MARCH 2021 to 31 MARCH 2022

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 March 2022 and for providing a comprehensive picture of HMP/YOI Parc over the reporting period, especially as you continued to operate with a severely depleted complement of members for the second consecutive year.

I was saddened to hear there were six deaths in custody during the reporting year. As you are aware the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) carry out independent investigations into deaths in custody and I would like to assure the Board my officials take recommendations from the PPO very seriously.

I can confirm that the operating contractor, G4S, has undertaken a review of its pay and reward system and has provided two salary increases this year to G4S staff. This has improved both the attraction of recruitment to HMP/YOI Parc and the retention of existing staff. G4S has also offered flexible contracts ranging from 24 hours to 40 hours per week to further improve recruitment and retention.

It was encouraging to receive your comments about HMP/YOI Parc being one of the first prisons in the UK to exit pandemic restrictions and reopen workshops. I was also reassured to hear about the very positive Estyn inspection (the education inspectorate in Wales), and of the effective delivery of resettlement services despite the challenges faced during the contract transition period.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report which the Director will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Justice Secretary and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP/YOI Parc.

Damian Hinds

Minister for Prisons and Probation

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## **HMPPS** comments on matters raised in the report

## Offender Behaviour Programmes

In December 2022 HMP/YOI Parc received a new contract for the delivery of Offender Behaviour Programmes (OBPs). Prior to the awarding of the contract, an OBP needs-analysis was conducted using segmentation data and an OBP Delivery Plan for 2023-24 was submitted. This proposal considered amending the prison's existing OBP offer to meet identified needs. Based on data, it was agreed HMP/YOI Parc would introduce the High Intensity Kaizen programme to meet general violence offending needs. It is the first high intensity programme to be delivered at the prison and reflects a new investment in OBP resources. To meet the responsivity needs of the prison population identified with learning difficulties, further reinvestment was agreed to deliver the adapted New Me Strengths OBP.

HMPPS reviews the delivery of OBPs at HMP/YOI Parc annually and if the level of demand fluctuates to indicate a sufficient population for a new strand of programme(s) then this can be considered. Work between HMPPS and HMP/YOI Parc is ongoing to support the prison to effectively track the needs of their sexual offender population. The last confirmed waiting list for prisoners requiring an accredited sexual offending OBP at HMP/YOI Parc was one prisoner. Where the demand is low, transfer arrangements should be pursued to progress any individual's access to OBPs. HMP/YOI Parc is close to HMP Usk, its designated specialist site for sexual offending OBPs.